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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

Letter dated 19 August 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Cameroon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as representative of the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity, I have the honour to forward herewith, to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 42 of the provisional agenda, the resolutions adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its sixty-fourth ordinary session and the resolutions and declarations adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government at its thirty-second ordinary session, which were held at Yaoundé from 1 to 5 July 1996 and from 8 to 10 July 1996, respectively (see annexes).*

(Signed) Paul Bamela ENGO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Cameroon
to the United Nations
Representative of the current Chairman
of the Organization of African Unity

* The annexes are being circulated in the languages of submission only.

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ANNEX I

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CM/Res.1647 (LXIV)

RESOLUTION ON THE PROBLEM OF ARREARS OF CONTRIBUTION

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Recalling previous resolutions on the question of arrears, namely CM/Res.1279 (LII), CM/Res.1311 (LII), CM/Res.1364 (LV), CM/Res.1423 (LVII), CM/Res.1480 (LIX), CM/Res.1554 (LXI) and CM/Res.1580 (LXII) and CM/Res.1618 (LXIII),

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Organization as at 1 June, 1996 (Doc. CM/1937 (LXIV),

Having also considered the Report of the Committee on Contributions contained in Doc. CM/1938 (LXIV),

Gravely concerned at the significant number of Member States that are not paying their financial contributions towards the Organization,

Conscious of the fact that the ever-increasing level of arrears of contribution payable by Member States constitutes a serious impediment to the Organization in the accomplishment of its mission and in the discharge of its increasing responsibilities,

Reaffirming once more that regular payment of contributions to the Regular Budget of the Organization constitutes a fundamental obligation of each Member State:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Organization;

2. **TAKES NOTE** also of the Report of the Sixth Session of the Committee on Contributions;

3. **EXPRESSES ITS DEEP CONCERN** on the present state of arrears of contributions, **(US$53,649,036.00 as at 1 June, 1996)** which, despite some improvement, still constitutes an impediment to the smooth functioning of the Organization, the accomplishment of its mission and the attainment of its objectives;

4. **COMMENDS** those Member States that are up-to-date in fulfilling their financial obligations to the Organization;

5. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to Member States that have deployed significant efforts and reduced the amounts of arrears of their assessed contributions;

6. **APPEALS ONCE AGAIN** to those Member States that have not yet paid up fully their arrears of contribution to urgently do so;

7. **REITERATES** its position that the sanctions embodied in resolution CM/Res. 1279(LXII) as well as Article 115 of the OAU Financial Rules and Regulations should be strictly and impartially applied during all meetings convened under the aegis of the OAU or the African Economic Community;

8. **REAFFIRMS** the provisional and exceptional exemption granted vide Resolution CM/Res.1618 (LXIII) to Somalia, Liberia, Burundi and Sierra Leone for a period of one year with effect from 1 March, 1996;

9. **DECIDES** to grant on a provisional and exceptional basis and for a period of 6 months, with effect from 1 July, 1996, an exemption to the sanctions embodied in Resolution CM/Res.1279 (LII) as well as Article 115 of the OAU Financial Rules and Regulations to the countries that make substantial efforts by paying at least 30% of their outstanding arrears before 31 July, 1996;

10. **REITERATES** that countries under sanctions should be given the floor, on an exceptional basis, in OAU/AEC meetings whenever items concerning directly and especially their countries (for example: conflicts) were being discussed;

11. **DECIDES** that the composition of the Bureaux of the various OAU Committees should be re-constituted as soon as possible to take account of the sanctions imposed on certain Member States and requests the Committee of Ambassadors to convene an extra-ordinary session to review this important matter;

12. **CALLS UPON** the Secretariat to ensure that the mandatory sanction contained in Resolution CM/Res.1311(LIII), prohibiting recruitment of new staff members from defaulting countries is strictly implemented not only on recruitment of regular staff members, but also on temporary staff such as freelance technical staff;

13. **REQUESTS** the Secretariat to continue to prepare and up-date systematically, for the attention of the chairman of each OAU/AEC meeting, a list of the countries affected by the sanctions;

14. **COMMENDS** to Committee on contributions for the work accomplished and **REQUESTS** the Committee to continue its reflections on possible incentive measure and submit a report thereon to the Sixty-fifth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.

CM/Res.1649 (LXIV)

RESOLUTION ON BURUNDI

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July 1996,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Burundi, Document CM/1942 (LXIV),

Having heard the statement of the Minister of External Relations and Cooperation of Burundi on the developments in the situation in his country,

Having considered and taken note also of the supplementary information provided by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Tanzania on behalf of the countries of the Great Lakes and East African Regions namely Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania and Zaire, and Ethiopia as Current Chairman of the OAU,

Considering the increasingly deteriorating political and security situation in Burundi,

Noting the continuing efforts by the Outgoing Chairman and Secretary-General of the OAU to contribute to the return of peace and security and to promote stability and national reconciliation in Burundi,

Aware of the concerns expressed by the United Nations Security Council and the UN Secretary-General over the precarious situation in Burundi and the possibility for humanitarian catastrophy in that country,

Appreciating the efforts deployed by the countries of the Region, former Presidents Julius Nyerere, Jimmy Carter which are aimed at bringing about a peaceful and political resolution of the conflict in Burundi,

Recalling the decision of the Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution at its 20th Ordinary Session held at Ambassadorial level on 15 April 1996, to extend the mandate of OMIB for a period of three months:

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1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Secretary General's Report

2. **EXPRESSES ITS SERIOUS CONCERN** on the unstable, tense and politically polarized situation and insecurity that continues to prevail in Burundi;

3. **STRESSES** that a durable settlement in Burundi must be based on democracy and security for all;

4. **DEPLORES AND STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the brutal and dastardly murder of innocent people as well as humanitarian and aid-workers and **ONCE MORE CALLS UPON** the Burundian authorities to take necessary measures to ensure the safety of all the people of Burundi and the personnel of international organizations, IGOs, NGOs, who currently risk their lives to render humanitarian assistance to the vulnerable sections of the society in Burundi;

5. **ENTRUSTS** the Central Organ to continue to pursue its efforts to prevent a further deterioration of the situation in Burundi;

6. **STRONGLY URGES** the Government, the political leadership of Burundi, the Armed Forces, as well as all the people of that country, to demonstrate a greater political will for a negotiated and peaceful settlement of the conflict that currently rages in their country;

7. **RECOGNIZES AND STRONGLY SUPPORTS** the important initiative of former President Julius Nyerere to promote dialogue among all Burundians who enjoy the full cooperation of the OAU, the United Nations, the European Union and the wider international community;

8. **REITERATES ITS SUPPORT** for the conclusions of the Cairo and Tunis Summits convened by former President Jimmy Carter and **UNDERSCORES** the need to respect the commitments made during the said summits to reduce tension and promote peace and stability in the region.

9. **REITERATES ITS APPEAL** for the continued cooperation of countries of the Region in their search for a durable solution to the problem of refugees and insecurity in the Region;

10. **SUPPORTS** to the outcome of the Eastern Africa Regional Summit held in Arusha on 25 June, 1996 and **URGES** its implementation aimed at cessation of the killings, political, assassinations, massacres and violence of all kinds;

11. **COMMENDS** the efforts of the Great Lakes region and the Outgoing Chairman of the Assembly to set up a technical committee to look into the modalities of extending security assistance requested by the Government of Burundi;

12. **APPEALS** to the international community to continue to closely coordinate all initiatives on Burundi and the region and to deploy more efforts towards the provision of urgent increased humanitarian assistance to displaced persons and refugees from Burundi in the neighbouring countries, within the framework of the implementation of the Bujumbura Programme of Action of February, 1995;

13. **REAFFIRMS** their commitment to a political and peaceful resolution of the conflict in Burundi through the national debate which should involve all Burundians;

14 **FULLY SUPPORTS** the convening of a well prepared Regional Conference on Peace, Security and Stability, and Development in the Great Lakes Region at opportune time and after appropriate consultations;

15. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to those countries that have extended assistance to the OAU Mission;

16. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General of the OAU to coordinate with the UN Secretary-General to secure the necessary support of the international community to ensure the implementation of the outcome of the Arusha Regional Summit of June 25, 1996;

17. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to persevere in his efforts in order to find a lasting solution to the conflicts in Burundi and to report to 65th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.

CM/R. 1650 (LXIV)

RESOLUTION ON LIBERIA

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in Liberia as contained in Document CM/1943 (LXIV),

Having heard the statement of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Liberia,

Recalling resolution CM/Res.1621 (LXIII) adopted at its Sixty-Third Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, as well as other previous OAU resolutions on the Liberian crisis,

Noting with regret the tragedy that has engulfed Liberia and the serious threat posed to the Abuja Agreement by the recent outbreak of heavy fighting in Monrovia, resulting in unnecessary loss of lives, destruction of property and looting of properties of international organizations, including the UNOMIL and other UN Agencies, NGOs and humanitarian organizations;

Deeply concerned by the tragic humanitarian consequences arising from the new breakdown in the ceasefire, compelling thousands of civilians to flee their country under very precarious conditions,

Noting with appreciation the initiatives and actions taken by the Current Chairman of ECOWAS and President of the Republic of Ghana, H.E. Flight-Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, the Committee of ECOWAS Ambassadors in Liberia and the United States Government which secured a ceasefire in the fighting in Monrovia and saved the beleaguered Liberian nation as well as offered the parties to the Liberian conflict the renewed opportunity to implement the provisions of the Abuja Agreement,

Noting further with appreciation the recommendations made and the mechanism drawn up by the Seventh Meeting of the ECOWAS Committee of Nine on Liberia at Accra, on 7th May, 1996,

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Welcoming the initiatives taken by the United States Government in setting up the International Contact Group on Liberia and hoping that the relations between ECOWAS and the Contact Group will be strengthened in the interests of the Liberian people,

Bearing in mind the relentless efforts deployed by ECOWAS and its Current Chairman, H.E. Flight Lieutenant J.J. Rawlings, President of the Republic of Ghana, towards the implementation, as quickly as possible, of the Abuja Agreement, as well as the enormous sacrifices made by the countries of the region,

Conscious of the fact that these efforts would be made conclusive with the international community fully assuming its responsibility of providing ECOWAS with the necessary financial and material assistance without any special conditionality,

Also conscious of the fact that the restoration of peace in Liberia is the primary responsibility of Liberians themselves, especially the leaders of the warring factions who should place the interest of their people and country above their personal ambitions:

1. **WELCOMES** the initiatives of the Current Chairman of ECOWAS and the Leaders in the Sub-region, as well as the efforts of the United States of America, which secured a ceasefire in the heavy fighting in Monrovia, and re-established the status of Monrovia as a safe haven;

2. **FULLY ENDORSES** the decisions taken by the 7th Ministerial Meeting of the ECOWAS Committee of Nine on Liberia, including the actions the warring factions should take between now and the next ECOWAS Summit in order to put back on track the peace process as recommended by the Abuja Agreement;

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3. **REITERATES ITS CONVICTION** that the Abuja Agreement, remaining the best framework for the restoration of peace and stability in Liberia, and **REAFFIRMS** the need for the scrupulous implementation by the warring factions of all the provisions of the Agreement relating to the nature of the Council of State, the appellation of the Transitional Government or the role of ECOMOG;

4. **WELCOMES AND SUPPORTS ECOWAS** decision not to recognize any Liberian Government which comes into office through the use of force or violence in violation of the Abuja Agreement;

5. **URGES** all Liberian warring factions and the Liberia National Transitional Government (LNTG) to cooperate fully with ECOMOG and scrupulously respect the mandate assigned to it with the aim of infusing a new breath into the disarmament, demobilization and fighters reintegration operations as set out in the Abuja Agreement;

6. **COMMENDS** the countries of the region, especially those cooperating with ECOMOG, for the sacrifices made in the search for a definitive solution to the Liberian conflict and **URGES** them to persevere in that direction despite the difficulties;

7. **FURTHER COMMENDS** the OAU Secretary-General for providing assistance to ECOWAS;

8. **UNDERSCORES** the urgent need for the international Community to honour the pledges made at the UN sponsored Pledging Conference on Liberia held in New York, 27 October, 1995;

9. **REITERATES THE URGENT NEED** for the International Community to scrupulously comply with the arms embargo imposed on the warring factions by the United Nations Security Council resolution 788;

10. **EXPRESSES ITS PROFOUND GRATITUDE** to the Government of Ghana for its extreme generosity by providing asylum to thousands of Liberians, mostly women and children, who fled their country by boat following the recent fighting in MONROVIA;

11. **URGES** the International Community to provide increased material and financial assistance to the countries of the region hosting Liberian refugees and **CALLS ON** African humanitarian NGOs to get actively involved in the assistance operations, thereby demonstrating more vividly the solidarity of the continent and its populations with the people of Liberia;

12. **WARNS** the Liberian warring faction leaders that should the ECOWAS assessment of the Liberian peace process during its next Summit meeting turns out to be negative, the OAU will help sponsor a draft resolution in the UN Security Council for the imposition of severe sanctions on them including the possibility of the setting up of a war crime tribunal to try the leadership of the Liberian warring factions on the gross violation of the human rights of Liberians;

13. **REITERATES THE CALL** on the Liberian warring factions by the ECOWAS and the international community to return all items looted from Monrovia during the recent round of fighting in April, 1996 to their rightful owners especially the UNOMIL, NGOs and other international organization or make full restitution to them;

14. **APPEALS** to the NGOs which have temporarily withdrawn their personnel from Liberia or maintain only a skeleton staff in the field in Liberia since the latest fighting in Monrovia in April, 1996 to resume full-scale operations in Liberia to end the hardship brought upon the innocent Liberian civilians by their action.

15. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to continue to monitor developments in the situation in Liberia and submit a report thereon to the next Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.

RESOLUTION ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS
IN SIERRA LEONE

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity meeting in its Sixty Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in Sierra Leone as contained in Document CM/1945 (LXIV),

Having heard the statement of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Sierra Leone on the Situation in Sierra Leone,

Welcoming the results of the Parliamentary and Presidential Elections of 26-27 February and 15th March, 1996, respectively, which facilitated the restoration of a multi-party system of Government in Sierra Leone,

Noting with Satisfaction the decision of the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone to engage in a peace dialogue with the Revolutionary United Front, with a view to ending the rebel war in Sierra Leone which has caused untold damage to life and property in the country,

Recognizing the sustained and tireless efforts of the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the RUF to move the peace talks forward by meeting at the highest level in Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire, in February and March 1996 with a view to ending the five-year old fratricidal conflict in Sierra Leone,

Appreciating the very crucial role that His Excellency Mr. Henri Konan Bedie, President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire has continued to play in facilitating the holding of the peace talks between the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the RUF in Abidjan and Yamoussoukro, Republic of Cote'Ivoire, since February, 1996,

Expressing appreciation for the sustained concern and interest of the Leaders of the West African Sub-region, in particular, His Excellency President Lansana Conte, President of the Republic of Guinea, His Excellency General Sani

Abacha, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Flt Lt Jerry John Rawlings, President of the Republic of Ghana and Current Chairman of ECOWAS,

Taking due note of the immense contribution the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and the Economic Community of West African States are making in the search for peace in the Republic of Sierra Leone,

1. **CONGRATULATES** the Government and People of Sierra Leone for the successful conduct of elections and the re-establishment of a multi-party Parliamentary system of Government with His Excellency Alhaji Ahmad Tijan Kabbah as President of the Republic of Sierra Leone;

2. **COMMENDS** OAU, the United Nations, the Commonwealth, and the International Community as a whole for supporting the democratization process in the Republic of Sierra Leone to a successful conclusion;

3. **URGES** the Revolutionary United Front and its Leadership to recognize the democratically elected Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and **URGES** both parties to cooperate fully, in concluding without further delay a peace agreement that will lead to the restoration of durable peace and stability in the country;

4. **URGES** both the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the RUF to continue to respect the existing ceasefire until the conclusion of a peace agreement;

5. **APPEALS** to the Member States of the Organization of African Unity to impress upon both the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone and the RUF the urgency of concluding a peace agreement in order to put an end to the loss of innocent lives and the havoc being caused to the infrastructure and the socio-economic fabric of Sierra Leone;

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6. **APPEALS** to the International Community to continue to support the peace talks between the Government and the RUF in any way possible with a view to bringing about their early successful conclusion;

7. **FURTHER APPEALS** to the donor community, in general, the UN and the Commonwealth in particular, to support the efforts of the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone in terms of humanitarian relief post-war rehabilitation and reconstruction of the country;

8. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to remain seized of this matter and to periodically report on progress thereon to the Central Organ of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution and to use his good offices to solicit humanitarian assistance to the many refugees and displaced people in camps in Sierra Leone and neighbouring countries.

RESOLUTION ON THE CRISIS BETWEEN THE GREAT LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND FRANCE

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 - 5 July, 1996

Guided by the principles and objectives of the Charters of the UN and the OAU calling on Member States to settle their disputes through peaceful means and to respect the independence of all Member States and pose no threat to their sovereignty, territorial integrity and the security of their peoples.

Having seriously considered the report of the Secretary-General on the dispute between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the United States of America, the United Kingdom and France,

Expressing its appreciation for the positive initiative of the Great Jamahiriya to settle the dispute, its acceptance of Security Council Resolution 731/92 in accordance with its national sovereignty and the rules of the International law,

Expressing its grave concern over the escalation of this crisis and the threat to impose further sanctions or use force against the Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in violation of the Charters of the OAU and the UN as well as international rules and norms,

Taking into consideration the position of the Great Jamahiriya which condemns all forms of terrorism and denounces those who resort to terrorism or encourage it as well as its willingness to cooperate with every regional or international effort aimed at solving this problem,

Greatly concerned about loss of human lives and material damage that the Libyan Arab People and those of the neighbouring States are experiencing as a result of the unjust measures imposed on Libya pursuant to UN Security Council Resolutions 748/92 and 883/93,

Noting with regret the disregard of the three Western countries for all successive resolutions adopted by the Regional and International Organizations expressing their support for a just settlement of the dispute;

Recalling the statement of the OAU Committee of Five in its meeting with the Committee of Seven of the League of Arab States in Cairo on 11 April 1996 in order to agree on a common plan of action and on unified Arab - African efforts so as to find a peaceful solution to the dispute through dialogue in accordance with the rules of the international law, respect for sovereignty and non-application of unlawful measures;

1. **EXPRESSES ITS GRAVE CONCERN** over the loss of human lives and material damage inflicted upon the Libyan Arab people as a result of the implementation of the measures contained in Security Council resolutions 748/92 and 883/93. And **UNDERLINES** that lack of response to the efforts made by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Organization of African Unity, the League of Arab States, the Non-Aligned Movement, and the Organization of Islamic Conference has greatly impeded the search for a solution to the crisis and increased the suffering of the Libyan Arab people and the neighbouring countries;

2. **EXPRESSES ITS CONVICTION** that, in the light of the existing ties of cooperation between the League of Arab States and the Organization of African Unity in this regard, the proposal made by the former that the suspects be tried in the Hague by Scottish Judges in accordance with Scottish law, with the necessary guarantees, a proposal that has enjoyed wide spread international support, forms a practical resolution of the problem. It therefore, **CALLS UPON** the three Western Countries concerned to consider this proposal;

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3. **CALLS UPON** the Security Council to lift the sanctions imposed on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya since the continued implementation of such sanctions may compel African States to look into possible means of sparing the Libyan Arab people further suffering;

4. **SUPPORTS** the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in its demand for appropriate compensation for the loss of human lives and material damages inflicted on Libya as a result of the unjust sanctions;

5. **COMMENDS** the work accomplished by the OAU Committee of Five on the Dispute, and **WELCOMES** the statement issued by the Joint Meeting of the OAU Committee of Five and the Arab League Committee of Seven and **URGES** the two Committees to continue with their efforts so as to find a just and peaceful solution to the problem and submit a report thereon to the Council of Ministers.

6. **REQUESTS** the OAU Secretary-General to redouble efforts aimed at the lifting of the unjust sanctions and report thereon to the next session of the Council.

CM Res. 1652 (LXIV)

RESOLUTION ON REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS IN AFRICA

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Having considered the Report of the OAU Commission of Twenty on Refugees on the Situation of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons,

Taking Note of the Report of the Second Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the Bujumbura Conference on the Situation of Refugees in the Great Lakes Region,

Considering that the influx of refugees and displaced persons continues to occur in various parts of Africa due to conflicts and put strains on the fragile socio-economic condition of the countries of asylum and also **Taking Note** of the persistent inhuman situation in the West African and Great Lakes Regions,

Appreciating the great sacrifices the countries of asylum are rendering to the refugees despite their socio-economic difficulties,

Noting also with great concern that despite all the efforts deployed so far by the OAU, UN Agencies, Eminent Persons, International Organizations and Non-governmental Organizations, the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Africa has continued to deteriorate,

Convinced that creating conducive conditions for the return of refugees in safety and dignity constitutes a durable solution to the problem of refugees in the continent,

Noting with satisfaction the massive voluntary repatriation process currently underway in some of the countries in Africa,

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Noting further with appreciation the activities of the asylum countries, the international community, in particular those of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in collaboration with governmental, and non-governmental and voluntary agencies in favour of refugees and displaced persons;

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the OAU Commission of Twenty on Refugees.

2. **URGES** Member States concerned and the International Community to intensify their efforts in the implementation of the recommendations of the Second Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the Bujumbura Conference.

3. **EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE** to the Member States which continue to grant asylum and extend assistance to refugees and displaced persons;

4. **URGES** countries of origin to create conditions conducive to the voluntary repatriation of refugees and the return of displaced persons to their places of habitual residences in conditions of safety and dignity;

5. **CALLS UPON** Member States to adhere to the various protocols and agreements signed in order to achieve peaceful settlements of all kinds of conflicts which will eventually lead to voluntary repatriation of refugees and the return of displaced persons to their habitual residences;

6. **CALLS UPON** the International Community to render generous assistance to carry out the necessary re-integration process in those countries where large-scale voluntary repatriation is taking place.

7. **FURTHER CALLS UPON** the International Community to provide additional assistance in order to help alleviate the refugee situation and that of local populations in countries of asylum, especially with regard to the West African and the Great Lakes Regions;

8. **STRESSES** that in order to facilitate lasting solutions, the international community should give assistance to refugees and returnees in the countries of origin and the countries offering asylum and **APPEALS** to the donor community to provide additional resources towards assisting refugees and returnees in order to match the magnitude of the problem;

9. **CALLS ON** the UNHCR in close collaboration with countries of asylum to continue to undertake refugee census in order to provide accurate figures of refugees in the concerned Member States;

10. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General of the OAU, the OAU Commission of Twenty on Refugees in cooperation with UNHCR t continue their efforts in the search for lasting solutions to the problem of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in the Continent.

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RESOLUTION ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the Question of Palestine as contained in Document CM/1951 (LXIV)

Recalling the relevant resolutions adopted by previous sessions of the Council of Ministers and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government on the Question of Palestine,

Reaffirming the legitimacy of the struggle being waged by the Palestinian People under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, their sole legitimate representative, to recover their occupied territories and exercise their inalienable national rights, including the right to return to their homeland, to self-determination and to an independent State, incorporating East Jerusalem in conformity with pertinent resolution of the UN General Assembly and the Security Council, in particular resolution No. 3236 (XXIX),

Appreciating the continued peace efforts for the achievement of a just and comprehensive settlement to the Palestinian Question on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242,338,478 and the legitimate national and political rights of the Palestinian People,

Expressing its satisfaction with the participation of the Organization of African Unity by monitoring the Palestinian election on 20 January 1996,

Further expressing its satisfaction with the resolution adopted by the National Palestinian Council in its Twenty-First Session concerning the amendment of the National Charter,

Also expressing its satisfaction with the first ever Legislative and Presidential Elections held under the Palestinian National Authority as an important step and additional impetus in the forthcoming negotiations on the issues deferred to the final stage.

1. **REAFFIRMS** that the Palestinian Question is at the core of the Middle East Conflict, while the issue of East Jerusalem forms the core of the Palestinian Question and that a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in Palestine calls for:

   a) The withdrawal of Israel from all the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, recognition and respect of the inalienable national rights of Palestinian People in accordance with the General Assembly Resolution 3236 (XXIX) and the relevant UN Resolutions.

   b) Cessation of all acts of violence by all parties, which are calculated to derail the on-going peace negotiations between Israel and PLO.

   c) The release of all prisoners in accordance with the agreement between Israel and the PLO and the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.

   d) Cessation of activities aimed at establishing new Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem and the need to dismantle the existing ones, put an immediate end to the confiscating of the Palestinian Land in and around Jerusalem and all other occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, and repeal immediately all the confiscation orders and arrangements made by Israel and that no such action be taken in the future so as to comply with the relevant resolutions of the UN General Assembly and the Security Council.

2. REAFFIRMS the need to resolve the problem of Palestinian refugees and displaced persons on the basis of the principles of human rights and in accordance with the provisions of the relevant UN Resolutions, particularly General Assembly Resolution 194 (1948) and Security Council Resolution 237 (1967) considering that the right to return constitutes one of the basic principles for achieving comprehensive and just peace in the region;

3. EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION AND SUPPORT for the "Land for Peace" principle, pursuant to the Security Council Resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), and for the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington on 13 September, 1993 by PLO and Israel as an important step towards the implementation of the principle of "Land for Peace", which should be speedily followed by similar measures on the Palestinian and other tracks;

4. APPRECIATES the determination of the Israeli Government and the PLO to forge ahead with the peace negotiation despite numerous setbacks;

5. ENCOURAGES Israel and the PLO to continue the peace process and ASSERTS the need to adhere to the provisions of the agreements concluded by the parties and to take measures to implement these agreements without delay and within the time-frame, pursuant to the Declaration of principles signed in Washington and all other related agreements;

6. EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION for the efforts being exerted by all other parties during the bilateral and multilateral talks and ENCOURAGES them to persevere in their efforts to reach a just and peaceful solution to the Palestinian Question;

7. **REAFFIRMS ITS SOLIDARITY** with the PLO and the Palestinian National Authority and **CALLS UPON** the donor community and international organizations and investment institutions to provide the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction, with economic and financial assistance, to enable it to exploit and develop the resources of the Palestinian territories and rehabilitate Palestinian national institutions as well as the infrastructure of the Palestinian national economy;

8. **INVITES** Member States to continue extending their necessary solidarity with the PLO at the forthcoming negotiations on issues deferred to the final stage in order to ensure the transfer to the Palestinian National Authority of all powers and responsibilities in the occupied Palestinian territories including East Jerusalem;

9. **REAFFIRMS** the need to abide by the UN resolutions especially the recent General Assembly Resolution A/RES/50/22 of 12 December 1995 calling on Member States not to transfer their diplomatic missions to Jerusalem;

10. **REQUESTS** the OAU Secretary-General to monitor developments on the Question of Palestine and report thereon to the next Session of the OAU Council of Ministers.

RESOLUTION ON THE MIDDLE EAST

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Having considered the report of the OAU Secretary-General on the Situation in the Middle East as contained in Document CM/1952 (LXIV),

Guided by the principles and objectives enshrined in the Charters of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity and by the common determination of the Arab and African peoples to pull their resources in safeguarding their sovereignty and restoring their fundamental inalienable rights,

Recalling all the relevant resolutions of the OAU Assembly of heads of State and Governments and the Council of Ministers on the situation in the Middle East,

Taking note of the recent political changes in the Middle East brought about by the change in leadership in certain key States'

Recalling also that the Palestinian Question is at the heart of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East and that the issue of Eastern Jerusalem is the core of the Palestinian Question;

1. WELCOMES recent positive developments in the Middle East and EXPRESSES its unflinching support for the efforts being made on all tracks to find a just and comprehensive solution to the Question of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions, particularly Security Council resolutions 242, 338, 425,465 and 478 based on the principle of "Land for Peace";

2. EXPRESSES its full support for the Arab countries in their efforts to put an end to the Israeli occupation and establish a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East;

3. REAFFIRMS that the Questions of East Jerusalem and Palestine are at the centre of the Arab-Israeli conflict and that there can be no

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just and lasting solution in the Middle East unless Israel withdraws from all Palestinian and Arab territories, including East Jerusalem, the Syrian Golan Heights and Southern lebanon and unless the Palestinian people are allowed to exercise their inalienable national rights;

4. **REAFFIRMS** its support for resolution 681 of the UN Security Council calling for the implementation of all the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention concerning the protection of civilians during wars in the case of the Palestinian people residing in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem;

5. **URGES** all parties in the Middle East to desist from launching armed attacks and perpetrating all acts of violence to allow the peace process to continue;

6. **STRONGLY URGES** the United Nations and the International Community to ensure Israel's full compliance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and the International Atomic Agency on the use of its nuclear installations for peaceful means and to persuade that country to open those installations for international supervision and to submit to the Security Council and the International Atomic Agency a comprehensive report on its stockpiles of nuclear weapons;

7. **DRAWS THE ATTENTION** of the Security Council and the International Atomic Energy Agency to the potential risks of radiation from the Israeli Deymons and other nuclear reactors in the absence of any international supervision of the Israeli nuclear programme and as a result of Israel's refusal to adhere to the Convention on the Non-Nuclear proliferation;

8. **REAFFIRMS** its support for the proposal of H.E. Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt on declaring the Middle East a zone free from nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction;

9. **REQUESTS** the OAU Secretary General to closely monitor the situation in the Middle East and to report thereon to the next session of the Council of Ministers.

CM Res. 1656 (LXIV)

RESOLUTION ON THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in Angola, contained in Document CM/1944 (LXIV),

Noting with satisfaction the recent developments attained in the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol,

Having heard the substantial information provided by the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Angola on the progress regarding the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol,

Emphasizing the obligation by all States to respect the United Nations Security Council and the its relevant resolutions on the need to refrain from any act capable of jeopardizing the peace effort and national reconciliation in Angola:

1. **WELCOMES** the progress achieved in the Angola Peace Process despite the delay encountered in implementing the Protocol Calendar of activities relating to steps defined in the Lusaka Protocol;

2. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to the International Community in particular, the United Nations and the Observer Countries to the Peace Process in Angola for the efforts deployed in supporting the Angolan Parties involved in restoring peace, confidence and stability in the country;

3. **URGES** the parties in particular UNITA to honour and scrupulously comply with the commitments made in the framework of the Lusaka Protocol and cooperate, in bona fide, with the Special Representative of United Nations Secretary-General in Angola with

a view to swiftly implementing and completing the process of the Lusaka Protocol;

4 **COMMENDS** the Angolan Government for the timely honour of its obligations as enshrined in the Lusaka Protocol;

5 **FURTHER APPRECIATES** the compromises arrived at during the meeting held in Libreville, Gabon on 1 March 1996 under the auspices of President Omar Bongo, between the Angolan Head of State and the UNITA Leader, on the formation of a single army and a government of national unity and reconciliation in which UNITA members and Dr. Savimbi himself participated;

6. **REQUESTS ONCE MORE**, the International Community to honour the commitments pledged during the Brussels Roundtable towards the reconstruction and community rehabilitation of Angola;

7. **EXPRESSES ITS DEEP GRATITUDE** to the humanitarian aid agencies for the invaluable assistance provided to the displaced people and, at this critical stage, of the peace process, APPEALS to them to further increase the assistance to the demobilized fighters and their families;

8. **PAYS TRIBUTE** to the exemplary work done by UNIVEM III in advancing the peace process;

9. **CALLS ON** the Secretary-General to continue to monitor the situation and report thereon to the next Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.

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CM Res. 1657 (LXIV)

RESOLUTION ON SOMALIA

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July 1996

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Somalia, document CM/1946 (LXIV),

Having listened to the statement by the Foreign Minister of Ethiopia on Somalia,

Concerned over the little progress made relating to the situation in Somalia in launching a process of national reconciliation aimed at establishing a broad-based national authority,

Concerned further about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Somalia,

Reiterating its position that ultimately the responsibility for finding a solution to the conflict in Somalia lies with the Somali people themselves,

Reaffirming the leading role that must be played by Africa in general and the countries of the region in particular, in the search for a lasting solution to the Somali conflict;

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Secretary-General;

2. EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION to H.E. Ato Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of Ethiopia and, Outgoing Chairman of the OAU, who has a special mandate to facilitate the restcration of peace in Somalia, as well as the Secretary-General of the Organization, for their efforts in the search for a negotiated, political solution to the conflict in Somalia;

3. **SUPPORTS** the efforts of the Member States of IGAD which have embarked on reactivating their initiatives for peace and reconciliation in Somalia;

4. **URGES** the Somali factions to assume their responsibility over the situation obtaining in their country, Somalia;

5. **REAFFIRMS ITS CALL** to the various Somali leaders to recognize the imperative need to act urgently to promote dialogue aimed at the establishment of a broad-based national authority and the pursuance of national reconciliation;

6. **URGES** the various Somali leaders to develop a common vision for their country and work towards the creation of conditions of security which are conducive to the facilitation of such assistance;

7. **REAFFIRMS ITS EARLIER APPEAL** to all OAU Member States and the International Community to desist from supplying war materials to any of the factions in Somalia so as to avoid an escalation of the crisis;

8. **APPEALS ONCE MORE** to the Member States and the International Community to provide humanitarian assistance in view of the worsening humanitarian situation in Somalia;

9. **CALLS UPON** H.E. Ato Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, and the Outgoing Chairman of the OAU as well as the Secretary-General of the Organization to continue their efforts aimed at finding a lasting solution to the crisis in Somalia;

10. FURTHER CALLS UPON the UN and the other Inter-Governmental Organizations, including the Arab League and the Organization for the Islamic Conference, to closely co-ordinate their efforts with the OAU and IGAD in the search for a solution to the conflict in Somalia.

11. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to continue to monitor the situation in Somalia and report thereon to the Sixty-Fifth Ordinary Session of Council.

CM Res. 1658 (LXIV)

RESOLUTION ON THE FIRST MEETING OF THE CHIEFS OF STAFF OF MEMBER STATES OF THE CENTRAL ORGAN

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of Africa Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July 1996,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the First meeting of the Chiefs of Staff of the Member States of the Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, contained in his Introductory Note (paragraphs 116 to 124),

Recalling the decision of the Sixty-Second Ordinary Session of Council endorsing the launching of the above meeting to examine the technical issues relating to peace-keeping,

Noting with satisfaction the interest shown by all the Member States which participated actively and in large numbers in the meeting,

Aware of the fact that all the technical issues discussed are complex and call for an extensive and thorough analysis as recommended in the final report of the meeting:

1. **TAKES NOTE WITH SATISFACTION** of the report of the First Meeting of Chiefs of Staff of Member States of the Central Organ and the relevant recommendations;

2. **COMMENDS** all the Member States of the Central Organ and all participants at the meeting for the interest and seriousness demonstrated during the deliberation of issues pertaining to peace, security and stability of the African Continent;

3. **INVITES** the Central Organ to consider and follow-up as appropriate the recommendations of the Meeting of Chiefs of Staff as reflected in the Annex to the Report.

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* Reservation of the Kenyan delegation recorded.

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RESOLUTION ON THE PLIGHT OF AFRICAN CHILDREN IN SITUATION OF ARMED CONFLICTS

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity meeting in its sixty-fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Having carefully listened to the report of the Secretary General on conflict situations in Africa and to the UNICEF statement on the Situation of Children under Armed Conflicts and its Anti War Agenda,

Noting with deep concern that the negative effects of armed conflicts are jeopardizing the survival and development of African children and hence the future of the continent,

Painfully aware that civil strife and armed conflicts have been impeding the tangible progress achieved through Member States' programmes on child survival, protection and development,

Recalling the strong commitment of African Heads of State and Government towards the eradication of wars and armed conflicts in Africa as demonstrated by the establishment, within the OAU General Secretariat, in 1993, of a Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution,

Convinced that dialogue is one of the most effective tool for creating conditions of peace, security and stability on the continent,

Mindful that Africa has committed itself to ensuring its children's welfare on the occasion of the World Summit for Children in 1990 as well as the OAU International Conference on Assistance to African Children, and through adopting several declarations and resolutions on child survival, protection and development, including the Consensus of Dakar and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the UNICEF Anti-War Agenda aimed at protecting children and women from the scourge of armed conflicts;

2. **APPEALS** to OAU Member States which have not yet done so to sign and ratify the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;

3. **APPEALS FURTHER** to OAU Member States to fulfil their commitments to children by fully implementing the Consensus of Dakar and the Convention on the Rights of the Child especially the articles on the protection of children under armed conflicts;

4. **CALLS ON** UNICEF and the international community as a whole to assist African countries concerned in clearing land-mines, and in rehabilitating people and lands affected by these deadly weapons;

5. **EXHORTS** all African countries, in particular the warring parties in those countries embroiled in civil wars, to keep children out of war situations and to refrain from recruiting children under the age of 18 in armed conflict or violent activities of any kind whatsoever;

6. **URGES** all the warring parties, Governments and others release child combatants from the army and give them adequate education and training, rehabilitate and reintegrate them in civil society so as to make them once more productive and responsible citizens of their respective countries;

7. **REAFFIRMS** that the use of children in armed conflicts constitutes a violation of their rights and should be considered as war crimes;

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8. **REQUESTS** the Secretary General in cooperation with international organizations and NGOs to consider modalities for organizing regional training programmes for members of the armed forces relating to the respect of basic human rights and international humanitarian law and to the protection of civilians, most of whom are children and women, during military operations;

9. **RECOMMENDS** that, zones and corridors of peace be established during armed conflicts to protect children and mothers in order to facilitate both the delivery of humanitarian aid and the provision of social services, such as education and health, and, in particular immunizations;

10. **INVITES** warring parties to pay special attention to the protection of girls and women;

11. **REQUESTS ONCE MORE**, the UNICEF and the OAU General Secretariat to recommit themselves to the existing Cooperation Agreement as well as all earlier Resolutions which call upon UNICEF to assist the OAU with the necessary financial, logistical as well as material support aimed at promoting the welfare, survival, protection and development of African Children;

12. **COMMENDS** the active participation of children in the 1996 celebration of the Day of the African Child, and recommends that an Annual Children's Parliamentary Session to be held in each OAU Member States, for the Day of the African Child, in order to enable children discuss issues not only affecting their welfare, but also their respective countries;

13. **CALLS UPON** the Secretary-General of the OAU to follow-up closely the working relations between UNICEF and OAU and to submit a Report relating to the implementation of this resolution to the Council of Ministers as appropriate.

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CM/Res.1660 (LXIV)

RESOLUTION ON

EXPEDITING THE PROCESS OF RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY ESTABLISHING THE AFRICAN NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE-ZONE

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Recalling Resolution CM/Res.1629 (LXIII) on the signing ceremony of the African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty (Pelindaba Treaty),

Noting with satisfaction the successful conclusion of the ceremony that took place in Cairo on 11 April, 1996,

Recalling the Cairo Declaration adopted on that occasion which emphasized that the establishment of Nuclear Weapon Free-Zones especially in regions of tension such as the Middle East enhances global and regional peace and security,

Recalling further resolution 50/78 adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 12 December 1995, on the final text of the African Nuclear Weapon Free-Zone,

Conscious of the necessity to consolidate the Non-Proliferation Regime and that the establishment of more Nuclear Weapon Free-Zones would form an important contribution;

1. **URGES** Member States who have not signed the Treaty Establishing the African Nuclear Weapon Free-Zone to do so as soon as possible and **CALLS UPON** those who have signed to expedite the process of ratification;

2. **REAFFIRMS** its conviction that the viability of the African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone would be strengthened by the establishment of a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in the Middle East;

3. **STRONGLY CALLS UPON** all States to consider and respect the continent of Africa and its surrounding area as a Nuclear Weapon Free-Zone.

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CM/Res.1661 (LXIV)

RESOLUTION ON THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT, MANUFACTURING, STOCKPILING AND USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND THEIR DESTRUCTION

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Having heard the statement made by Côte d'Ivoire delegation on the Convention on Prohibition of the Development Manufacturing Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and their Destruction.

Having also heard the statement by other delegations on the same issue,

Noting that the discussions on this item were marked by different points of view,

Bearing in mind the point of view outlining that the benefits developing countries in general and African countries in particular, could derive from the Convention entering into force,

Noting that it has, so far, not been possible for the Convention signed in Paris in 1993 by 160 States of the International Community, 42 out of which are African to come into force, owing to the very low number of the ratifications received, namely 53,

Noting also that the two countries with the largest stockpile of chemical weapons have not yet ratified the Convention,

Convinced that the signing and ratification of the said Convention would help speed up its entry into force:

1. **CALLS UPON** those African States which have signed the Convention to ratify it;

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2 **ALSO CALLS UPON** the major producing States of chemical weapons in particular the two countries with the largest stockpile of those weapons which have not yet ratified the Convention to do so as early as possible in order to alleviate the difficulties faced by some countries in its implementation programmes.

3. **URGES** all developed countries to promote international cooperation through the transfer of technology, materials and equipment for peaceful purposes in the chemical field, as well as the withdrawal of discriminatory restrictions both national and multi-lateral and national contrary to the letter and spirit of the Convention;

4 **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to transmit the report of the Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers reflecting the discussions on this issue to the African delegates to the Preparatory Commission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

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CM/Res. 1662 (LXIV)

RESOLUTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW, WATER AND ARMED CONFLICTS IN AFRICA

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Having considered the recommendations made at the Third Seminar organized jointly by the OAU and ICRC in Addis Ababa on 2 and 3 May 1996 on International Humanitarian Law and on the theme: "Water and Armed Conflicts" Doc.CM/1950 (LXIV) Annex III,

Bearing in mind the previous resolutions adopted by the Council of Ministers and particularly CM/Res. 1526 (LX)" on the respect of International Humanitarian Law and Support for Humanitarian Action in Armed Conflicts" adopted by the OAU Council of Ministers in Tunis, Tunisia, in June 1994,

Noting the disastrous effects of armed conflicts and particularly the loss of human lives and material resources,

Considering further the existence of African traditional Norms and values in resolving conflicts and the need to rediscover them and make them known at all levels,

Considering also the need for humanitarian action to remain neutral, impartial and independent,

Seriously concerned about the reduction in available water resources, the humanitarian problems resulting therefrom and the increasing use of water as a weapon in armed conflicts;

Taking note of the outcome of the last session of the 1980 UN Convention Review Conference on Tradition weapons held in Geneva from 22 April to 3 may 1996,

Extremely concerned about the increasing use of children in armed conflicts,

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Expressing Satisfaction at the humanitarian efforts made on the field by various organizations and particularly the ICRC;

Deeply shocked by the repeated attacks and killings both local and international staff of the humanitarian organizations;

Reaffirming the need to enhance cooperation between the OAU and ICRC particularly in the area of Conflict Prevention;

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations of the Third Seminar organized jointly by the OAU and ICRC on International Humanitarian Law and the theme "Water and Armed Conflicts" held in Addis Ababa on 2 and 3 May 1996 appended to the Report of the OAU Commission of Twenty on Refugees;

2. **CONDEMNS** the constant aggression of civilians in armed conflict situations;

3. **REAFFIRMS** the need for African States to become parties to the instruments on International Humanitarian Law and adopt national implementation measures relating particularly to the protection of the emblem of Red Cross / Red Crescent and repression of breaches of International Humanitarian Law;

4. **URGES** the Member States to rediscover the African traditional norms and humanitarian values, to make them known through education and dissemination and ensure their implementation;

5. URGES the Member States to adopt measures aimed at a better water conservation and management within the perspective of sustainable development and conservation of environment;

6. **APPEALS** to the Member States for an absolute protection of water sanitary installations and personnel in-charge of maintaining and repairing these installations in armed conflicts;

7. **REAFFIRMS** the African Common Position aimed at the total ban of antipersonnel mines as stated in Resolution CM/Res.1628 (LXIII) and the need to adopt, to this end, strong national and regional measures to ban those weapons;

8. **APPEALS** to the Member States and to all the parties engaged in armed conflicts to put an end to the recruitment of children in these conflicts;

9. **EXPRESSES** its support for the humanitarian efforts made on the field by various organizations and particularly the ICRC and **URGES** them to pursue their commendable action in favour of victims of armed conflicts;

10. **CONDEMNS IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS** the attacks and killings, including incitements to acts of violence and threat against the personnel of organizations that are exclusively humanitarian, neutral and impartial;

11. **URGES** Member States to take all necessary steps to ensure that the personnel of humanitarian organizations are protected and respected by all, in conformity with international law especially the international humanitarian law, thus enabling them to pursue their normal activities and conduct enquiries aimed at shedding light on these attacks and taking appropriate measures;

12. **REQUESTS** the Secretary General to enhance the cooperation of the OAU with the ICRC and other humanitarian organizations particularly in the field of conflict prevention and to contribute to the dissemination of information on and respect the international Humanitarian Law in Africa;

13. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to monitor the implementation of this resolution and to report to the Sixty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.

CM/Res.1663 (LXIV)

RESOLUTION ON THE TWELFTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF INDUSTRY

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the 12th meeting of the Conference of Ministers of Industry and UNIDO General Conference resolution GC.6/Res.11 on the IDDA;

Recalling the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community,

Bearing in mind the Cairo Agenda for Action adopted by the Seventeenth Extra-ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers,

Recalling further the Second IDDA adopted by the United Nations General Assembly,

Reiterating OAU Summit resolution AHG/Res.5 (XXXII) of 28 June 1995 supporting UNIDO,

Taking note of the statement by the Director General of UNIDO to the Council of Ministers especially in respect of the "Alliance for Africa's Industrialization"

Reaffirming the primary responsibilities of the African countries in the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade and the need for the mobilization of their own resources and for substantial flow of technical and financial resources from the international community towards the industrialization of Africa;

1. **TAKES NOTE WITH APPRECIATION** of the Report of the Secretary-General on the 12th Meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry and on the 6th Session of the General Conference of UNIDO;

2. **ENDORSES** the Gaborone Declaration and the resolutions adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Industry at its Twelfth meeting;

3. **REITERATES ITS FULL SUPPORT** to UNIDO and **WELCOMES** the decisions of the legislative bodies of UNIDO to continue to accord highest priority to Africa and the IDDA;

4. **ENDORSES** the launching of the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization as a dynamic mechanism for the attainment of the goals and objectives of the IDDA and **INVITES** Africa's development partners and the

international community to intensify their cooperation with African governments and private sector industrial enterprises in support of the Alliance;

5. **CALLS ON** all Member States of the OAU to participate actively in the 13th Meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry and the Second All Africa Private Sector Forum scheduled to be held in Accra in May 1997;

6. **INVITES** all African States and Africa's development partners to participate actively in the meeting for the launching of the Alliance for Africa's industrialization which will be chaired by H.E. Mr. Henri Konan BEDIE, President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, in Abidjan in the last quarter of 1996;

7. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General of the OAU in close cooperation with the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Director General of UNIDO to continue their assistance in the implementation of the programme for the 2nd IDDA and to undertake follow-up actions for the mobilization of resources at national, sub-regional and regional levels for industrialization in Africa and jointly submit a biennial report on the matter to the OAU Council of Ministers and Summit Conference.

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CM/Res.1664 (LXIV)

RESOLUTION ON THE OPERATION OF THE REGIONAL AFRICAN SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS ORGANIZATION (RASCOM)

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 - 5 July, 1996,

Having considered the report on the activities and the development prospects of the Regional African Satellite Communications Organization, Document CM/1958 (LXIV),

Recalling Resolution CM/Res.1435 (LVII) on the implementation of the Regional African Satellite Communications System,

Further recalling Resolution CM/Res.1498 (LIX) on the establishment of the Regional African Satellite Communications System (RASCOM),

Recalling also the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community, in particular its Article 63, paragraphs 2, 3 and 4,

Noting with appreciation the support so far rendered to RASCOM Organization by Member States and the International Community,

Convinced of the need to construct telecommunications infrastructural facilities that will interconnect African countries with a view to laying the necessary foundation for the establishment of the African Economic Community,

Aware of the important role of RASCOM in providing such facilities for the physical and economic integration of the Continent,

Appreciative of the work done by RASCOM in pooling together transponders leased or purchased by Member States so as to promote the efficient use of Member States' space segment resources,

Considering the growing restructuring and privatization in the Telecommunication Sector in Member States,

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Considering also that the structure of RASCOM Organization allows the participation of private capital in its endeavours through the non-signatories shareholders agreement

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report on the activities and the development prospects of RASCOM Organization;

2. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to Member States that have fully satisfied the conditions for membership of RASCOM Organization as well as for their continued support to RASCOM;

3. **URGES** all Member States that have not signed or ratified the RASCOM Convention and Operation Agreement to do so and buy shares in the RASCOM organization;

4. **COMMENDS** RASCOM Organization for its encouraging and promising initial operating results as well as for its role in promoting the development of telecommunications in rural and isolated areas through the use of satellite communications technology;

5. **EMPHASIZES** the urgent need for RASCOM Organization to take necessary measures to maintain the African character and personality of the Organization;

6. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to all African and International competent institutions for their support to RASCOM;

7. **CALLS UPON** Member States, within the context of their privatization policy, to comply with the provisions of the Convention and RASCOM Operation Agreements which encourage sub-regional and regional integration in Africa;

8. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to intensify its cooperation with RASCOM and to mobilize member States to fully support the activities of RASCOM;

9. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in cooperation with the Director-General of RASCOM to regularly report on the implementation of this present resolution.

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CM Res. 1665 (LXIV)

RESOLUTION ON THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN THE RULE OF LAW IN AFRICA

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Considering the importance of justice in Africa as a factor of security, peace and development,

Considering the need to consolidate the democratization process in Africa,

Concerned by the persistence of flagrant violations of human rights in some regions of the African Continent,

Considering also that impunity encourages the deterioration of human rights in the world in general, and Africa in particular,

Bearing in mind the Ouagadougou,(Burkina Faso) Plan of Action as adopted by the Nineteenth Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) in April 1996:

1. **ENDORSES** the Ouagadougou Plan of Action and **URGES** Member States to take all appropriate measures to implement it;

2. **CALLS UPON** the Secretary-General to closely monitor developments in the situation in consultation with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and other institutions concerned and submit a report on the implementation of this resolution to the 66th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.

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CM/Res.1666 (LXIV)

RESOLUTION ON DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFIC CONTROL IN AFRICA

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 1996,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on Drug Abuse and Traffic Control in Africa, Document CM/1962 (LXIV),

Recalling the UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, the Single Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol and the UN Convention for International Control of Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and that of 1988 UN Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances,

Recalling further the African regional meetings on the Problems of Illicit Drug Abuse and Trafficking in Africa, held in Lagos, Nigeria in November, 1979; Rabat, Morocco in April, 1981; Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire in March, 1993; Pretoria, South Africa in 1994, and the planned UN Special Session of the General Assembly in 1997, devoted to the problem of Illicit Drug Trafficking and Abuse,

Considering Resolutions CM/Res.797 (XXXV) recommending the establishment of an OAU Specialized Commission for Drug Control Matters in Africa and CM/Res.1470 (LVII) requesting the Secretary-General to draw up a Plan of Action on Drug Control at continental level and submit a report thereon to the Council,

Noting with concern the escalating problem of drug abuse and traffic in Africa, and in particular the abuse of drug among the youth,

Appreciative of the initiative to conclude a Cooperation Agreement between the OAU and the UNDCP in assisting Member States in the implementation of programmes on Drug Abuse and Traffic Control in Africa:

1. **TAKES NOTE WITH SATISFACTION** of the Report of the Secretary-General on Drug Abuse and Illicit Traffic Control in Africa;

2. **COMMENDS** the efforts made by the OAU Secretariat and the UNDCP in drawing up the Draft Plan of Action on Drug Control in Africa;

3. **ADOPTS** the Draft Plan of Action and the Declaration on Drug Control in Africa and **DECIDES** to submit it to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government;

4. **APPEALS** to Member States to implement the Plan of Action by establishing national mechanisms or focal points of Coordination where they do not exit between Governmental, Non-Governmental and International Organizations and Agencies concerned with drug abuse and illicit traffic control issues;

5. **CALLS ON** the UNDCP to further strengthen and intensify its existing cooperation with the OAU, with a view to establishing a Mechanism on Drug Control within the OAU Secretariat as a focal point for coordinating the implementation and follow-up of the Plan of Action on Drug Control and Abuse in Member States;

6. **REQUESTS** Member States to submit periodic progress reports to the OAU Secretariat on the implementation of this Resolution, and in particular, the Plan of Action on Drug Control in Africa;

7. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to follow-up the implementation of the resolution and submit a progress report to the 66th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.

CM/Res.1667 (LXIV)

RESOLUTION ON THE FOLLOW UP OF THE FIRST PAN AFRICAN CONFERENCE ON YOUTH AND DEVELOPMENT

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on the First Pan-African Conference on Youth and Development on the overall theme: African Youth in the 1990s and Beyond: Peace, Participation and Development (Doc. CM/1961 (LXIV), held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 18 to 22 March, 1996,

Mindful of all other resolutions on the convening of the First Pan-African Conference on Youth and Development, and in particular, Resolution LC/Res.199 (XVII) as endorsed by the Sixtieth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers, Resolution CM/Res.1536 (LX) and Resolution CM/Res.1573 (LXI),

Deeply concerned about the current situation and plight of the Youth in Africa with regard to health, education, employment, drugs and crime as well as the role and contribution of youth in environment protection, peace, security, democratization process and socio-economic, political and cultural development of the continent,

Appreciative of the fruitful conclusions and recommendations adopted by the First Pan-African Conference on Youth and Development and by the African Youth Forum,

Convinced that it is of paramount importance to prepare the youth for the major challenges ahead regarding their close involvement in the steering of the destiny of the African continent to the Year 2000 and beyond:

1. **TAKES NOTE** with appreciation of the Report of the Secretary-General on the First Pan-African Conference on Youth and Development;

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2. **COMMENDS** the efforts made by the OAU, the Pan African Youth Movement and its partners in the United Nations system in convening the Conference;

3. **URGES** Member States to empower the Youth and consequently enable them to play a major role in ensuring a better future for the continent by:

   a) strengthening training and research efforts in the areas of employment, education and training, health, science and technology, agriculture, environment, peace and security as well as in the socio-economic, political and cultural development of the continent;

   b) creating an enabling environment to facilitate the mobilization and participation of youth in the decision-making process through legislative mechanisms, policy reforms and improved civil structures; and

   c) supporting rural youth programmes and assisting them with income-generating activities.

4. **CALLS UPON** the OAU partners on youth issues, particularly, UNICEF, ILO, UNFPA, FAO, UNEP, UNDCP, UNDP WHO, UNESCO, ICRC, UNECA, Scout Movement and other concerned organizations to increase all technical and material support to OAU Member States and to continue their Cooperation Agreements with the General Secretariat with a view to achieving the effective implementation of the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Youth Conference;

5. **APPEALS** to Member States to forward to the OAU General Secretariat periodic progress reports on the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Conference;

6. **REQUESTS** the OAU Secretary-General to consider the establishment of a Youth Fund from its regular budget for the follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the outcome of the Conference;

7. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the OAU Secretariat, in cooperation with its partners, to establish the convening of the Pan-African Youth Conference on a bi-annual basis and a Youth Forum at which creativity awards should be given to the youth who would have distinguished themselves in any field of human endeavour;

8. **ENCOURAGES** the Pan-African Youth Movement to pursue its efforts for the convening of the 8th Youth Congress, and **REQUESTS** the OAU General Secretariat to participate in this Congress and support the PYM in its preparation and re-organization;

9. **CALLS UPON** the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the implementation of this Resolution to the Sixty-Sixth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.

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RESOLUTION ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE NINETEENTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE OAU LABOUR COMMISSION

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon from 1 to 5 July 1996,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary General on the Proceedings of the Nineteenth Ordinary Session of the OAU Labour Commission, Doc CM/1960 (LXIV),

Recalling Resolution AHG/Res.204 (XXVII) on the situation of African Migrant Workers in Europe and Resolution CM/Res.1413 (LVI) on the situation of Migrant Workers in Africa,

Recalling further Resolution CM/Res.1410 (LVI) which, among others, calls upon Member States to respect the principle of tripartism within the OAU Labour Commission, in the ILO meetings and at the national level,

Expressing satisfaction at the cooperation established between the OAU, the Arab Labour Organization and ILO for the success of the seminar on South-South Migration, organized in Cairo in December 1995,

Aware of the concerns in Declaration AHG/Decl.1 (XXVII) of the Twenty Seventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government on the Employment crisis in Africa,

Convinced about the close overlapping of Labour problems and social issues as a whole;

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report and Resolutions of the Secretary General on the Proceedings of the Nineteenth Ordinary Session of the OAU Labour Commission;

2. **URGES** the Member States to RESPECT and APPLY the principle of Tripartism, not only for the meetings of the OAU Labour Commission and the International Labour Conference but also at the national level

3. **APPEALS** to the Member States which have not yet done so to ratify the Agreement on the Establishment of the African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI) and honour their contribution in order to prove their solidarity with the disabled persons;

4. **CALLS UPON** the Secretary General to request the assistance of UNICEF, WHO, UNESCO AND ILO for the preparation and success of the Tripartite Pan-African Seminar on the Protection of the Child and The Elimination of Child Labour scheduled in Brazzaville, the Congo before the end of 1996

5. **REITERATES** the appeal it made to the ILO Director General for Africa to be no longer marginalized as regards the senior posts in the Organization and that the quota of Africa be increased;

6. **URGES** once again the Member States and the OAU Secretary-General to implement, in their respective areas, the decisions, recommendations and resolutions emanating from the Nineteenth Ordinary Session of the OAU Labour Commission;

7. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General in close cooperation with the ILO, ALO, the World Confederation of Productivity Science (WCPS), the World Academy of Productivity Science and UNDP to consider the possibility of organizing during 1997/98 a specific meeting on productivity problems in Africa;

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8. **ENDORSES** the pledge to change the Labour Commission into the Labour and Social Affairs Commission

9. **APPEALS** to all OAU Member States to assist the Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU) in the construction of the Kwame Nkrumah Africa Labour College in Accra, Ghana;

10. **CALLS UPON** the Secretary General to report to the Sixty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers on the progress made in the implementation of this resolution

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CM/Res.1669 (LXIV)

RESOLUTION ON THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN AND THE GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR ACTION

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on the Fourth World Conference on Women, Document CM/1959 (LXIV),

Recalling Resolution CM/Res.1602 (LXIII) on the Fifth African Regional Conference on Women and the African Platform for Action and all previous resolutions adopted by the OAU Council of Ministers related to the enhancing of the role and contribution of African women to the political and socio-economic development of the Continent,

Further recalling the Addis Ababa Declaration AHG/Decl. 2 (XXXI) on the Dakar African Platform for Action on Women adopted at the Thirty-First Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in June, 1995 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,

Reaffirming the importance of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China from 4 to 15 September, 1995, namely the Declaration and Global Platform for Action, and the commitments made by African Governments at the Conference,

Recognizing that 1996 is the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty particularly among the women-folk in Africa who constitute the majority of Africa's people living in the rural and urban areas, will require the implementation and integration of strategies at the national, regional, continental and international levels in all the critical areas of concern identified in the Global Platform for Action,

Recognizing also that mainstreaming of gender perspectives into all policies and programmes aimed at combating poverty is critical,

Convinced that improving women's education and health in the context of family is an essential strategy for sustainable development and has to be reflected in the implementation of national, regional, continental and international development policies, programmes and projects.

Further convinced that an enabling socio-economic and political environment has fundamental roles to play in the creation of conditions that allow women to achieve full integration in development.

Aware of the need for women, as agents and beneficiaries of development, to be empowered by guaranteeing them access to such services as education, health, employment, maternity and child care and credit so that they may be fully integrated into development.

Convinced that in order to ensure peace, stability and tranquility in Africa women need to be more involved in all activities and processes of conflict prevention, management and resolution:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Secretary-General on the Fourth World Conference on Women;

2. **CALLS ON** Member States to:

   i) fulfill their commitments to the African and Global Platforms for Action by developing, preferably by the end of 1996, national implementation strategies or plans of action for the implementation of the two Platforms for Action specifically targeted at the eradication of poverty among women-folk;

   ii) undertake legislative and administrative reforms to give women full and equal access to economic

resources, including the right to inheritance and ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources and appropriate technology;

iii) promote the participation of women at all levels of decision making;

iv) include gender perspectives in all the guidelines for economic and social policies and to increase women's capacities and capabilities in planning of development programmes;

v) increase the participation of women in conflict resolution and protect them in situations of armed conflict.

3. **CALLS UPON** the OAU Secretary-General in cooperation with Member States to promote women's empowerment through concrete actions, policies and programmes;

4. **REQUESTS** the OAU Secretary-General to integrate gender perspectives in all programmes and policies of the OAU;

5. **CALLS UPON** the Secretary-General to restructure and strengthen the Women's Unit in order to enhance the capability of the Unit in discharging its coordinating and sensitization role in the implementation of the two Platforms for Action;

6. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to submit periodic reports to the Council on the progress made and problems encountered in the implementation of the African and Global Platforms for Action.

CM Res. 1670 (LXIV)

RESOLUTION ON THE FOLLOW UP OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION.

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon from 1 to 5 July 1996,

Recalling the different resolutions on the International Convention to Combat Desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, and more particularly Resolution CM/Res. 1508 (LIX) of the Fifty-Ninth Ordinary Session and Resolution CM/Res. 1571 (LXI) of the Sixty-First Ordinary Session, both held in Addis Ababa respectively in February 1994 and 1995,

Reaffirming the importance of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 49/234 of 23 December 1994 and 50/112 of 20 December 1995 on the arrangements for the interim period and on the measures to be taken urgently for Africa,

Acknowledging that desertification and drought are problems of global dimension in that they affect all regions of the world,

Recognizing that joint action of the International Community is needed to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought,

Realizing that new and more effective integrated and coordinated approaches are needed at all levels within the framework of the implementation of the Convention,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up activities of the Convention and particularly steps taken by African States, regional and sub-regional organizations as well as by African non-governmental organizations in implementing United Nations General Assembly and Council of Ministers of the OAU resolutions on the measures to be taken urgently for Africa

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1. **INVITES** African States who have already signed and ratified the Convention to continue their efforts in putting in place the machinery to prepare national action programmes and holding national forums involving the donor community and multilateral agencies and institutions;

2. **CALLS UPON** all African States who have not yet done so to sign and/or ratify to the Convention so that a maximum number of African States ratify it before December 1996;

3. **REQUESTS** all regional and sub-regional African Organizations, particularly OAU, ADB, AOCRS, CILSS, IGAD, SADC, UMA, as well as ECOWAS, ECCAS, COMESA, Civil Society in general and the other Local Authorities involved in the implementation of Convention, to pursue their cooperation in implementing the provisions of the Convention in African Region and consolidate their financial support and other forms of assistance for the relevant initiatives related to implementation, follow-up and coordination of on-going activities;

4. **INVITES** the Interim Secretariat of the Convention and the United Nations Systems, particularly UNEP, UNDP/UNSO, ECA, IFAD, FAO, WHO and UNESCO, as well as multilateral financial institutions such as ADB, World Bank, IDA, IMF and all international institutions for cooperation and development, in particular USAID, GTZ, CRDI/ACDI, European Union, SIDA and Japanese Cooperation, to fully and effectively support by financial resources and technical and technological assistance the initiatives of African countries and organizations within the framework of the implementation of the resolution on the measures to be taken urgently for action;

5. **TAKES NOTE** of the outcome of the Conference on Hunger and Poverty organized by the International Fund for Agricultural Development of the United nations (IFAD) in cooperation with FAO, WFP, the Government of Belgium and the European Commission in November 1995 in Brussels which adopted an innovative popular coalition for action to implement a tire-bound programme which will inter alia support cost-effectively the implementation of the United Nations Convention on drought and desertification;

6. **TAKE NOTE** of the view expressed by the 6th Session of African Ministers Conference on Environment (AMCEN) to establish a Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) as mechanism to provide substantive backstopping for the implementation of the Convention;

7. **INVITES** all concerned sub-regional, regional and international organizations, including the interim Secretariat of the Convention concerned with the effective functioning of the Regional Coordination Unit, to fully cooperate and consult on the process of establishing and launching such a Unit;

8. **REQUESTS** all African States, sub-regional and regional organizations as well as African NGO's to submit to the OAU for necessary action vis-a-vis the interim Secretariat of the Convention, reports on action taken or envisaged within the framework
of the implementation of the resolution on Urgent Action for Africa;

9. **REQUESTS ALSO** the Secretary-General of OAU to convene a meeting ofthe Ad-Hoc Experts Group of OAU on Desertification to prepare for the Ninth Session of INC-D (International Negotiating Committee) in September 1996 at the Headquarters of United Nations in New York, and to submit for adoption the outcome of

the meeting to the African group on Desertification before the session indicated above;

10. **URGES** the international community to honour its commitments and obligations under the Convention, inter-alia, those related to a Global Mechanism established to promote actions leading to the mobilization and channelling of substantial financial resources, including for the transfer of technology, on a grant basis, and/or concessional terms, to affected developing country parties, in order to support efforts and activities towards the eradication of poverty in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, particularly in Africa;

11. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General of OAU to follow-up closely the progress made in the implementation of this resolution and to report to the 1998 Session of the Council.

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CM/Res.1671 (LXIV)

RESOLUTION ON AFRO ARAB COOPERATION

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on Afro-Arab Cooperation, contained in document CM/1965 (LXIV),

Bearing in mind the Declaration and Programme of Action as well as other decisions and resolutions adopted by the First Afro-Arab Summit, held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, March 1977,

Reaffirming its total commitment and entire readiness to deploy every effort to ensure the constant strengthening of Afro-Arab Cooperation in all fields,

Considering resolutions CM/Res.994 (XLIII), CM/Res.1210 (L), CM/Res.1250 (LI) relating to Afro-Arab Cooperation:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the Secretary-General on the 2nd Afro-Arab Trade Fair held in Johannesburg (South Africa) from 6 to 14 October, 1995;

2. **EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE** to the Government and people of the Republic of South Africa for all the arrangements made to ensure the success of that important event,

3. **REQUESTS** the Secretary General of the OAU to pursue, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, the on-going activities aimed at implementing the programmes already adopted, particularly those concerning the establishment of Afro-Arab Financing and Investment Cooperations and the Afro-Arab Cultural Institute;

4. **RECOMMENDS** the intensification and coordination of cooperation activities as well as direct contacts between African and Arab institutions aimed at formulating joint cooperation programmes;

5. **EMPHASIZES** the need to strengthen Afro-Arab Cooperation in all fields in view of new developments at the regional and international arena;

6. **WELCOMES** the offer made by the United Arab Emirates to host the 3rd Afro-Arab Trade Fair in Sharjah from 6 to 12 December, 1997; and by Mauritania tko host the 2nd Afro-Arab Business Seminar in March 1997 in Nouakchott;

7. **REQUESTS** all Member States to participate actively in the different events planned during the 3rd Afro-Arab Trade Fair;

8. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General of the OAU, in consultation with his counterpart of the League of Arab States, to take every necessary step and establish the appropriate contacts with all the parties concerned so that they may contribute to the preparation and organization of these two events;

9. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Secretary-General of the OAU to continue his consultations with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States in order to create the congenial conditions for the holding of the 12th Ordinary Session of the Standing Commission for Afro-Arab Cooperation;

10. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to include this item on the Agenda of the Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers and to submit a report thereon.

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CM/Res.1672 (LXIV)

RESOLUTION ON SPECIAL EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND FOR DROUGHT AND FAMINE IN AFRICA

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July 1996,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on the activities and functioning of the Special Fund, contained in Document CM/1966 (LXIV),

Recalling the provisions of its resolutions CM/Res.1315 (LII) and CM/Res.1336 (LIV) relating to the Special Fund,

Deeply concerned over the extent of the persistent drought in Africa and its effects in the economic and social development of Member States,

Recalling further the aims and objectives of the Special Fund, instrument of active solidarity and cooperation, expression of the will and determination of Africa to control drought and famine in Africa,

Concerned also over the financial situation of the Fund, due to the gradual depletion of its resources and lack of new contributions,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the Secretary-General on the activities and functioning of the Special Fund;

2. **APPROVES** the recommendations adopted by the 20th Session of the Committee to convene in 1997 the Special Pledging Session at the level of Heads of State and Government;

3. **APPEALS** to the all Member States and international institutions to participate effectively in the pledging session;

4 **REITERATES** its appeal to the International Committee, Governments, Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations and business community to contribute generously to the Special Fund;

5. **DECIDES** to appoint the following Member States to serve on the Policy Committee of the Special Fund for a two year period starting from the 21st Ordinary Session: Algeria, Cote D'Ivoire, Guinea, Gabon, Ethiopia and Malawi;

6. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to report on the activities and situation of the Fund to the 65th Ordinary Session of the Fund.

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CM/Res.1673 (LXIV)

RESOLUTION ON THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFRICA

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July 1996,

Having considered Document CM/1935 (LXIV) Add.6 concerning the proposal by the Government of the Republic of Angola to organize a Ministerial Conference on Human Rights in Africa,

Bearing in mind of the objectives and principles of the Charter of the Organization of African Unity and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,

Recognizing the importance of promoting, protecting and respecting Human Rights as essential factors in the preservation of peace and stability on the continent:

1. **WELCOMES** the proposal by the Government of the Republic of Angola to the holding of a Ministerial Conference of OAU Member States on Human Rights in Africa;

2. **TAKES NOTE** of the willingness of the Angolan Government to host this Conference;

3. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General of the OAU to take, in consultation with the African Human and Peoples' Rights Commission and the host country, the measures needed for the preparation, organization and the convening of the Conference;

4. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Secretary-General of the United Nations to respond favourably to any request from the OAU General Secretariat or the host country relating to the Organization of the Conference.

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CM/Res.1674 (LXIV)

RESOLUTION ON MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT RESOLUTION AHG/Res.230 (XXX) RELATING TO THE STRENGTHENING OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AFRICAN COURT OF HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session from 1 to 5 July 1996 in Yaounde, Cameroon,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General on the measures taken to implement resolution AHG/Res.230 (XXX), Doc. CM/1968 (LXIV),

Considering that the Charter of the Organization of African Unity declares that freedom, equality, justice and dignity are essential objectives for the achievement of the legitimate aspirations of the African Peoples,

Recalling that the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Right reaffirms adherence to the principles of Human and Peoples' Rights, Freedom and duties contained in the declarations, conventions and other instruments adopted by the Organization of African Unity, and other International Organizations,

Recalling also Resolution AHG/230 (XXX) of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government by which the Secretary-General was requested to convene a Government experts meeting to ponder in conjunction with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights over the means to enhance the efficiency of the African Commission in considering particularly the establishment of an African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights,

Firmly convinced that the attainment of the objectives of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights requires the African Commission to be strengthened by the provision of sufficient human and material resources as well as by the establishment of an African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights to complement and reinforce the mission of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights,

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1. **COMMENDS** the Secretary-General on measures taken to implement Resolution AHG 230 (XXX).

2. **APPROVES** the recommendations contained in the report of the experts meeting, (Annex I) relating to the strengthening of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights;

3. **DEFERS CONSIDERATION** of the draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the establishment of an African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights to the 65th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers;

4. **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to once again circulate the Draft Protocol to Member States inviting their views, comments and observations within a limited period and to submit a report thereon to the 65th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers to facilitate consideration of the Draft Protocol.

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CM/Res.1575 (LXIV)

RESOLUTION ON THE PROPOSED COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting at its Sixty Fourth Ordinary Session from 1 to 5 July 1996 in Yaounde, Cameroon,

Having Considered the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed Cooperation Agreement between the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) Doc. CM/993 (LXIV)

Considering the mandate of the ICJ and its important role in the promotion and protection of Human Rights in Africa and especially in the support rendered towards the establishment and functioning of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights;

Considering also that the principles and objectives governing the activities of the ICJ are in conformity with the principles and purposes of the OAU;

Taking into account the need to enhance the cooperation between the OAU and ICJ in the field of human rights in Africa;

Considering that the formalization of already existing relations between the OAU and ICJ will enable these two organizations to strengthen their cooperation in order to harmonize and coordinate their activities in relevant fields of common interest;

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Secretary-General;

2. **APPROVES** the Draft Cooperation Agreement between the OAU and the ICJ;

3. **AUTHORIZES** the OAU Secretary-General to sign the said Agreement with the duly empowered representative of ICJ.

CM/Res.1676 (LXIV)

RESOLUTION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF AFRICA'S INFORMATION SOCIETY INITIATIVE (AISI)

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting at its Sixty Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July 1996,

Convinced of the need to fully exploit the potential of the information technology to effectively and equitably integrate Africa in the global economy and accelerate the socio-economic development of the Continent,

Recognizing that building Africa's information infrastructure and decision support systems to enable African leaders, policy-makers and the civil society at large is a necessary condition to positioning Africa in the world's rapidly expanding global economic system, enhancing policy information and speeding up the process of economic integration in the Continent,

Taking Note of resolution 812(XXXI) of the African Ministers Responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning of the Economic Commission for Africa adopting the framework for the Implementation of the African Information Society Initiative,

Convinced that the African Information Society Initiative will enable the creation of new jobs and enhance the quality of life of the people,

Further Convinced that the building of the African Information Society will require major commitment and cooperation of governments, the business sector and international development agencies,

Committed to building and strengthening of the African Information Society,

1. **CALLS UPON** Member States to take immediate measures to implement Africa's Information Society Initiative and incorporate the action framework of the Initiative to build Africa's information and communication infrastructure in their development plans and programmes;

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2. **FURTHER CALLS UPON** Member States to share the experiences and experiments of national, sub-regional and regional African centres of excellence for the implementation of the Initiative;

3. **URGES** the international Community, in particular regional organizations such as the Pan African Telecommunication Union and Regional African Satellite Communications System, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, bilateral and multilateral development partners, to realize the goals of the Initiative;

4. **FURTHER URGES** the international financial institutions, in particular the World Bank and Africa's development partners to use Africa's Information Society Initiative as a guiding framework for their intervention in the area of information and communication in Africa.

CM/Res.1677 (LXIV)

RESOLUTION ON AFRICAN CANDIDATURES

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996

Having considered the report of the OAU Standing Nominating Committee;

Aware of the criteria on African candidature contained in Resolution AHG/Res.144 (XXII) as well as the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Nominating Committee;

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Standing Nominating Committee;

2. DECIDES to support the candidature of Kenya - for the seat of non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the period 1997-1998.

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CM/Res. 1678 (LXIV)

RESOLUTION ON AFRICAN CANDIDATURES

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Having considered the report of the OAU Standing Nominating Committee,

Aware of the criteria on African candidature contained in Resolution AHG/Res.144 (XXII) as well as the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Nominating Committee

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Standing Nominating Committee;

2. **DECIDES** to fully support the candidature of Professor Mohamed Bedjaoui of Algeria, for re-election as member of the International Court of Justice.

CM/Res.1679 (LXIV)

RESOLUTION ON THE OAU CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session from 1 to 5 July 1996 in Yaounde, Cameroon,

Having considered the Report of the Secretary-General, Doc. CM/1969 (LXIV),

Conscious of the fact that the Charter of the OAU adopted by the Founding fathers of the Organization in May 1963 remains the basic instrument of the Organization,

Conscious of the need to re-examine the provisions of the charter in the light of the changes and new realities in Africa,

Considering that the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, by its decisions AHG/Dec.111(XVI) Rev.1, set up a Fourteen-member Committee to review the Charter of the Organization of African Unity,

Considering the continued importance of the review of the Organization's Charter:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Secretary-General on the 6th Session of the Charter Review Committee contained in Doc. CM/1969 (LXIV);

2. **WELCOMES** the resumption of the work of the Charter Review Committee, **APPRECIATES** the work already done by the Committee and **URGES** it to continue with the review exercise so that a draft revised Charter could be presented as soon as possible;

3 **APPROVES** the recommendations of the Charter Review Committee contained in paragraph 18 of the Report of the 6th Session, Annex I, relating to the need to convene the Committee annually until it finishes its work, the hiring of legal consultants and the inclusion, if possible, of legal experts in delegations attending meetings of the Committee

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CM/Res. 1680 (LXIV)

VOTE OF THANKS

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-Fourth Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 1 to 5 July, 1996,

Considering that excellent arrangements had been made by the Government of the Republic of Cameroon to ensure the success of the Session,

Noting with appreciation the competence and efficiency with which the Chairman of the Council conducted the work of the Session:

1. **NOTES WITH SATISFACTION**, the highly inspiring statement made during the Opening Session by H.E. Mr. Simon Achidi, Prime Minister of the Republic of Cameroon;

2. **EXPRESSES ITS PROFOUND GRATITUDE** to the President, the Prime Minister, the Government and the People of Cameroon for their fraternal and warm hospitality;

3. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to the Chairman of the Council and to the Chairman of the 63rd Session of the Council for the competence and efficiency with which they conducted the work of the 63rd and 64th Ordinary Sessions of the Council.

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ANNEX II

Resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-second ordinary session

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AHG/Res.247 (XXXII)

RESOLUTION ON REGULAR REPORTING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF OAU DECLARATIONS ON HIV/AIDS IN AFRICA

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting at the Thirty-Second Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon from 8 to 10 July, 1996,

Mindful that it is already 4 years since the adoption of the Dakar Declaration and 2 years since the adoption of the Tunis Declaration on HIV/AIDS in Africa.

Cognizant that to date the implementation of these Declarations has been slow, while available information indicates that the HIV/AIDS epidemic has worsened in Africa and if left unchecked, the disease has a potential to negate most of the social and economic gains that Africa has achieved or is likely to achieve in the near future.

Aware that a lot has to be done urgently at the level of the Heads of State and Government to prevent further worsening of the HIV/AIDS epidemic:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Secretary-General and the specific actions taken by countries on the implementation of HIV/AIDS Declarations and the lessons learned about the weakness of that implementation;

2. REAFFIRMS its personal commitment and that of their sectoral Ministries to continue to work with the Ministry of Health as to ensure that Member States fully participate in the fight against HIV/AIDS in their respective countries;

3. URGES the UNAIDS and International partners and donors to continue to assist Africa in its effort to face the challenges outlined in the Report of the Secretary-General on the Follow-up of OAU Declarations on HIV/AIDS in Africa (Doc. CM/1963(LXIV);

4. REQUESTS all Member States to continue to report regularly to the Secretariat on the implementation of these Declarations, using the provided matrix format;

5. FURTHER URGES all Member States of the OAU to participate actively in the First African Youth Conference on Sexual Health under the theme, "The Youth and AIDS: Challenge for the 21st Century", scheduled to be held in Accra, Ghana from 30 September to 4 October, 1996;

6. FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretary-General with the support of UNAIDS and all relevant partners to continue reporting on the implementation of the Declarations and its progress every year to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government;

AHG/Res.248 (XXXII)

RESOLUTION ON AFRICAN COMMON POSITION ON FOOD SECURITY AND THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Thirty-Second Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 8 to 10 July, 1996,

Recalling its Resolution AHG/Res.244 (XXXI) on Food Security and Agricultural Development, adopted at its Thirty-First Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, from 26 to 28 June, 1995,

Recalling further the OAU Council of Ministers Resolution CM/Res.1643 (LXIII) adopted at its Sixty-Third Ordinary Session, held in Addis Ababa, from 26 to 28 February, 1996,

Recalling the outcome of the Nineteenth FAO Regional Conference for Africa that was held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on 16 - 20 April, 1996,

Aware that H.E. Mr. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Out-going Chairman of the OAU, sent a letter to all OAU Heads of State and Government inviting them to participate in the World Food Summit, to be held from 13 to 17 November, 1996 in Rome, Italy,

Mindful of the deteriorating food and agricultural situation in Africa,

Considering the risk of recurrent drought and other disasters as related to food and agricultural production,

Considering further the need to intensify food and agricultural production in order to confront the growing needs of African populations,

Having considered Document CM/1954 (LXIV) entitled, "Report of the Secretary-General on the Preparations on the World Food Summit:

1. ADOPTS the African Common Position on Food Security and Agricultural Development as Africa's contribution to the World Food Summit;

2. EXPRESSES ITS STRONG SUPPORT to the FAO, which has a crucial role to play in the development of the sector of food and agriculture in Africa;

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3. EXPRESSES FURTHER APPRECIATION to the Government and people of Burkina Faso for having hosted the Nineteenth FAO Regional Conference for Africa;

4. COMMENDS the efforts of H.E. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Out-going Chairman of the OAU, for inviting all OAU Heads of State and Government to participate in the World Food Summit;

5. CALLS UPON all African Heads of State and Government, to participate actively, in the forthcoming World Food Summit;

6. STRONGLY RECOMMENDS the participation of Women in the World Food Summit as they play a vital role in food production in Africa;

7. REQUESTS the Secretary-General of OAU to transmit the African Common Position on Food Security and Agricultural Development to the Director-General of FAO as an official document, as Africa's contribution to the World Food Summit and to all member countries of the FAO;

8. FURTHER REQUESTS OAU Member States, OAU General Secretariat and the African Group in Rome, to use the African Common Position on Food Security as an instrument of negotiation with the international community;

9. URGES FAO to assist Member States and the OAU General Secretariat to develop and implement programmes for sustainable Food Security and Agricultural Development;

10. CALLS UPON the international community to accord special assistance to African countries to develop their food and agricultural sector;

11. REQUESTS the OAU Secretary-General to submit a preliminary report, on the World Food Summit to the Sixty-Fifth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers and an evaluation report to the Thirty-Third Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

AHG/Res.249 (XXXII)

RESOLUTION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE AND CONDITIONS OF THE OAU CONTACT GROUP ON AFRICA'S DEBT

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Thirty-Second Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 8 to 10 July, 1996,

Recalling Africa's Common Position on Africa's external debt crisis adopted by the Third Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU held in Addis Ababa, from 30 November to 1 December, 1987,

Further Recalling Resolutions AHG/Res.219 (XXIX), 211 (XXVII), Decision AHG/1254 (LI) on the deliberations of the OAU Contact Group on Africa's External Debt,

Gravely concerned over Africa's increasing indebtedness, debt servicing burden and deterioration of the socio-economic situation in Africa,

Recognizing the need to re-energise the operations of the OAU Contact Group on Africa's debt,

Noting with appreciation the initiatives taken by H.E. Mr. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and OAU Out-going Chairman, with the G7 at its meeting had in Lyons, France, from 27 to 29 June, 1996, to find a solution to the problems of Africa's debt,

Recognizing the need for an effective coordination, consultation and exchange of information and experience among African countries, and cooperation with the creditors as a way of finding just and lasting solution to Africa's debt crisis:

1. TAKES NOTE of the report of the Secretary-General on the evaluation and functioning of the Contact Group;

2. COMMENDS H.E Mr. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, OAU Out-going Chairman and Chairman of the Contact Group for the relentless efforts deployed to sensitize and alert the international community to Africa's external debt crisis;

3. RE-NEWS the mandate of the Contact Group and REQUESTS it to pursue the on-going efforts and, in cooperation with the creditors, find every possible ways and means of resolving the external debt crisis;

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4. FURTHER REQUESTS the Current Chairman of the OAU to take necessary measures to review the Chairmanship of the Contact Group as well as the composition of the Contact Group with a view of ensuring equitable geographical representation and the participation of all Groups of indebted countries;

5. DECIDES to enlarge the composition of the Contact Group from 12 to 24 members taking account the importance of the issues at stake;

6. REQUESTS the Current Chairman of the OAU, Chairman of the Contact Group, to continue and intensify the sensitization efforts among Africa's creditors in order to persuade them to take an active part in the reason for a lasting solution to Africa's external debt crisis;

7. REQUESTS Member States of the Group to coordinate their activities at country level in order to facilitate the effective participation of Finance Ministry and Central Bank representatives in the activities of the Contact Group;

8. ALSO REQUESTS the Secretary-General to take appropriate budgetary and administrative measures to ensure that a meeting of the Contact Group is convened in the margin of Council of Ministers sessions;

9. CALLS ON African countries to set up mechanisms at country level to facilitate cooperation in the area of exchange of information and experience in debt management and international negotiation;

10. REQUEST the Contact Group to meet at the level of African Ambassadors in Addis Ababa in order to prepare the Ministerial Session of the Group;

11. REQUESTS the Secretary-general of OAU, in collaboration with ADB and ACMS to take necessary steps to ensure implementation of this resolution and to submit an appropriate report thereon to the next session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU.

AHG/Res.250 (XXXII)

RESOLUTION ON THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity meeting in its Thirty-Second Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 8 to 10 July, 1996,

Considering the Ninth Annual Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights,

Recalling that the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights came into force on 21 October 1986, and that 50 Member States of the OAU are parties to the Charter,

Further Recalling that, in accordance with Article 25 of the said Charter, the States parties are committed to recognizing and promoting the rights, duties and freedoms enshrined in the Charter, and have undertaken to adopt appropriate measures to give effect to them,

Considering that the report on the implementation of the Charter indicates, in particular, that very few States have submitted their periodic reports on the legislative and other measures taken with a view to giving effect to the provisions of the Charter, as stipulated in Article 62 thereof,

ALSO Considering the human and peoples' rights situation in Africa, and the absolute need to endow the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights with the human, material and financial resources necessary for its effective functioning,

Further considering the appeal made by the said Commission to all the States Parties to celebrate with fanfare the 10th Anniversary of the entry into force of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights which comes up on 21 October 1996 and coincides with the opening date of the 20th Ordinary Session of the Commission scheduled to take place in Grand Bay, Mauritius,

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Finally considering that, pursuant to Resolution AHG/Res.230 (XXX), government experts have elaborated a draft text on the establishment of an African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights and plans to consider the matter in depth in the coming days,

Aware of the absolute need to strengthen the African mechanism for the promotion and protection of Human and Peoples Rights:

1. TAKES NOTE WITH IMMENSE SATISFACTION, of the Ninth Annual Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights as well as the conclusions and recommendations contained therein, and AUTHORIZES the publication of the said Report;

2. COMMENDS the African Commission for the remarkable work it accomplished during the financial year just ended;

3. STRONGLY SUPPORTS the activities of the African Commission aimed at promoting and protecting the rights and freedoms recognized and guaranteed under the Charter;

4. HIGHLY COMMENDS AND ENCOURAGES the States Parties which submit their periodic reports regularly, cooperate with and provide assistance to the Commission towards the execution of its mandate,

5. CALLS ON the States Parties to take concrete measures to implement effectively the provisions of the Charter and, in particular, cooperate further with and step up assistance to, the Commission to enable it accomplish its mission;

6. MAKES AN URGENT APPEAL to Member States of the OAU to ratify the Charter as early as possible if they have not already done so;

7. URGES all the State Parties to take appropriate steps, to celebrate with fanfare the 10th Anniversary of the entry into force of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, on 21 October 1996;

8. ALSO APPEALS to the State Parties to submit their periodic reports in conformity with Article 62 of the Charter, if they have not already done so;

9. CALLS ON the Secretary-General of the OAU to forge ahead with the elaboration of the draft instrument establishing the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights in consultation with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights;

10. FURTHER CALLS ON the Secretary-General of the OAU to take necessary measures through the appropriate organs to endow the African Commission as early as possible, with the requisite human, material and financial resources to enable it carry out its mission effectively, and to submit an appropriate report to the 33rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly.

AHG/Res.251 (XXXII)

RESOLUTION ON THE LAUNCHING OF THE DECADE OF EDUCATION IN AFRICA (1997 - 2006)

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Thirty-Second Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 8 to 10 July, 1996,

Having considered the statement of the representative of Mali relating to the Decade of Education in Africa presented by the Government of the Republic of Mali,

Recalling Resolution CM/Res.1603 (LXIV) by which the Sixty-Second Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers declared 1996 the "Year of Education in Africa (YEA)",

Further recalling the need to consolidate the tremendous achievements already made in the area of the Year of Education particularly the Segou Prospects Observatory which have recorded positive results in West and Central Africa,

Aware of the urgent necessity to mount a relentless campaign in order to overcome all the obstacles hampering progress towards education for all, and, to that end, the need for the rapid implementation of the twelve (12) recommendations of the Pan-African Seminar on the Launching of the Year of Education in Africa held in Bamako from 5 to 7 October, 1995 on the theme "Towards Education for All",

Also Aware that the overhaul of African educational systems and the emergence of a New African Educational System would determine not only the success of development efforts but also the consolidation of the democratization process,

Convinced that only a strategy articulated at the level of the entire Continent will make it possible to take up the challenges posed by education:

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1. EXPRESSES SATISFACTION at the positive results already achieved by Member States within the framework of the Year of Education in Africa and REITERATES the urgent need for sub-regional and regional cooperation in order to harness the potentials and experience of Member States in the area of education;

2. DECLARES the period "1997 - 2006" Decade of Education in Africa" on the understanding that its main objective would be to remove obstacles to progress towards education for all;

3. REQUEST the Secretary-General to convene a meeting of the Ministers of Education in order to launch the Decade and to formulate its Programme of Action;

4. FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Sixty-Sixth Ordinary Session of the Council on the implementation of this resolution.

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AHG/Res.252 (XXXII)

RESOLUTION ON THE OAU ANTHEM

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Thirty-Second Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 8 to 10 July, 1996,

Strongly committed to the provisions of the Charter and Rules of Procedure of the Organization of African Unity,

Resolutely committed to strengthen the unity, the independence, the sovereignty, peace and solidarity of the African continent,

Seriously determined to ensure the success of the African integration in all its entirety,

Bearing in mind the Abuja Treaty as a privileged instrument of the African integration,

Convinced of the imperative need for Africa to express solemnly its solidarity and its attachment to Africa values and cultural heritage:

REQUESTS the Secretary-General to pursue further consultations with a view to proposing the ways and means of arriving at an acceptable decision on the matter.

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AHG/Res.253 (XXXII)

RESOLUTION ON STRENGTHENING OF UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP) AND UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS - UNCHS (HABITAT)

The of the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting its Thirty-Second Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 8 to 10 July 1996,

Recalling decision 15/1 of 25 May 1989, of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, which the Governing Council, reaffirmed the central role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the central catalyzing, coordinating and stimulating body in the field of environment within the United Nations,

Recalling further decision 16/1 of 31 May 1991, of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme in which the Council expressed its support for retaining at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme at Nairobi the programme activity centres already located there, decided that future major extensions to the physical or other infrastructure of the Programme, particularly those with global functions, would be centred principally at Nairobi,

Noting paragraphs 38.21 and 38.23 of Agenda 21, in which it was stated that there would be a need for an enhanced and strengthened role of the United Nations Environment Programme and its Governing Council, that, inter-alia, the regional offices of the Programme should be strengthened without weakening the headquarters,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 48/174 of 21 December 1993, by which the General Assembly, among other things, acknowledged the grant from the Government of Kenya of an additional forty acres of land for expansion of office facilities and the improvement of the communications network, and requested the Secretary-General to ensure that programming of meetings related to the Programme is rationalized to facilitate economy and more effective capacity utilization at the headquarters of the Programme,

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Recalling also United Nations General Assembly Resolution 47/176 of 21 December 1993, which the General Assembly, inter-alia, requested the Assembly to ensure that in the restructuring of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, UNHS (Habitat) is maintained as the global focal point for human settlements and that its institutional capacities are strengthened at its headquarters,

Noting with appreciation United Nations General Assembly resolution 48/214 of 23 December, 1993 and 49/142 of 23 December, 1994 on the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990's the thrust of which was to secure a central focus and attention for Africa in the United Nations throughout the decade,

Recognizing that environmental and human settlements issues occupy a crucial place in the development endeavours of countries of the African region,

Aware that the presence of the two United Nations institutions in Africa has had a positive impact on the level of awareness, interest and programme activities in environmental and human settlements matters amongst countries of the region,

Concerned that there is currently a decline in political and financial support from the international community to the United Nations Organization and its subsidiary bodies, including the two institutions headquartered in Nairobi, coupled with global economic patterns that generally marginalize the continent of Africa,

Noting with concern that the headquarters of the two institutions in Nairobi are being weakened by the impact of certain measures, notably the location of United Nations Environment Convention Secretariat and regional offices for both United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Centre for Human Settlements away from headquarters, and the unabated tendency of holding important meetings and conferences related to United Nations Environment Programme away from headquarters,

Concerned that the representation of Member States of the United Nations Organization in Nairobi, i.e. 80 countries, out of which Africa has only a total of 19 representative missions, is minimal,

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Convinced that the survival and optimal delivery of the two United Nations institutions would depend to a large extent on the efforts of the African countries,

Commending the resounding success of the Second UN Conference on Human Settlement - HABITAT II - held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 3 to 14 June, 1996 which instituted a new kind of partnership between Government responsibilities, local authorities, civil society, NGOs, academics and Research Centres, as well as UN Agencies and Institutions to set the priorities of the sustainable development of human settlements in a world undergoing urbanization:

1. PAYS TRIBUTE to President Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya who ably represented Africa at HABITAT II by presenting the region's common position;

2. COMMENDS Dr. Wally NDAW, Secretary-General of the Conference and his entire team as well as the host Government for the flawless organization of this meeting on the future of towns and cities at the dawn of the 21st century.

3. URGES the Member Countries of the Organization of African Unity to;

   a) send representative missions to United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), where such missions are not in existence;

   b) take into consideration the technical nature of the work of United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) when considering the posting of representatives to Nairobi so as to ensure appropriate and adequate representation to the two institution;

c) strengthen coordination between capitals and African missions to the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements;

4. URGES the host country, Kenya, to continue in her efforts of mobilizing support towards the strengthening of the two institutions' headquarters using political and diplomatic instruments in her bilateral and multilateral contacts in the global, regional and sub-regional context;

5. CALLS UPON the regional bodies in Africa such as ECOWAS, COMESA, SADC,UMA, ECCAS East African Cooperation (EAC), ADB, PTA Bank, iGAD, CILSS, UN-ECA and Shelter Afrique to work closely with Member States and with the Organization of African Unity in ensuring sustained efforts at strengthening United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) Headquarters;

6. REQUESTS the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to bring this resolution to the attention of the United Nations Secretary-General, the Chief Executives of the regional and Sub-regional institutions : ECOWAS, COMESA, SADC, UMA. ECCAS, EAC, IGAD, CILSS, UN-ECA, the ADB, PTA Bank and Shelter-Afrique.

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AHG/Res.254 (XXXII)

RESOLUTION ON BIOETHICS

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of African Unity meeting in its Thirty-Second Ordinary Session in Youndé, Cameroon, from 8 to July 1996,

Bearing in mind that a recognition of the intrinsit dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family constitutes the bedrock of freedom, justice and peace in the world in general and in Africa in particular,

Recalling the ideals of the free human being liberated from fear and misery as recognized by the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the international instruments on human rights, and bearing in mind the determination to preserve the dignity and integrity of the human being,

Also Recalling that the inviolability of the human person and the right of every human being to respect for his/her life and for the physical and moral intergrity of his/her person have been formally reaffirmed in the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government meeting in its Eighteenth Ordinary Session in Nairobi, Kenya, in June 1981,

Further Recalling the right of the individual to the benefits of scientific progress as well as application thereof, as recognized by the International Pact on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and bearing in ming the advantages resulting from the encouragement and development of international cooperation and contacts in the field of science,

Recognising of the rapid progress achieved in the area of life sciences, and the dangers which could be posed to the dignity and integrity of the individual by certain practices;

Determined to ensure that scientific progress benefit the individual human being and is achieved under condition of respect for fundamental human rights, and stressing the need for international cooperation in order to enable humanity as a whole

benefit from the achievements of the science of life and obviate any use thereof for purposes other than the promotion of humanity's wellbeing;

Aware of the seriousness of the stakes involved, the complexity of scientific and human problems, the limitations of everything human being, and the need to contribute to the triumph of life;

1. DECIDES that giving priority and urgent attention to issues pertaining to Bioethics have become an absolute necessity to all societies be it in the South or in the North;

2. ENDORSES the ideas of the International Pact on Civil and Political Rights which prohibits the subjection of any person without his/her freely given consent to medical or scientific experiment, and to the principles of medical ethics applicable to health personnel especially doctors, in the area of protection of prisoners and detainees from torture and other forms cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment as contained in Resolution 37/194 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 18 December 1982;

3. PLEDGES to promote within the Continent the following universal rights and principles under conditions of respect for cultural, social and religious values:

   - accesss to health care for all;

   - inviolability of the human body and of the genetic heritage of the human species;

   - inalienability of the person which prohibits the subjection of the human body, its components particularly the human genes and the sequences thereof to commercial and property rights purposes;

- the anonymity of both the donor and the beneficiary of human organs and human products, subject to the excepitons spelt out in the legal codes of Member States;

- the obligation to obtain the free and enlightened consent of any one to submit himself/herself to bio-medical research, and the definition of rules to protect vulnerable populations, the incapacitated, persons deprived of freedom as well as the sick under emergency conditions;

- supervision of research facilities on (embryoes epecially those produced as a result of medical procedures offering assistance towards procreation and the attendant application of such procedures, so as to obviate selective eugenic by-products particularly those relating to sex considerations;

- the right to benefit from scientific progress and application thereof without any discrimination whatsoever;

- the right of everyone, especially children, to protection from all forms of trade and exploitation;

4. PLEDGES to take legislative and other measures to give effect to this resolution, and to set up consultative bodies at both country and inter-African levels to promote the exchange of experience obtained, among such bodies;

5. APPROVES Resolution 1995/82 of the Unite Nations Human Rights Commisssion adopted in Geneva on 8 March 1995, as well as Resolution CONF/93/4-DR.21 of 1 April, 1995 adopted in Madrid at the 93rd Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Bioethics.

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AHG/Res.255 (XXXII)

RESOLUTION ON THE QUESTION OF THE COMORIAN ISLAND OF MAYOTTE

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Thirty-Second Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 8 to 10 July, 1996,

Considering the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the OAU Charter relating to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the OAU on the Question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte, particularly, Resolution AHG/Res.193 (XXVI),

Reiterating the legitimate claims of the Comorian Government regarding the reintegration of the Comorian Island of Mayotte within the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros,

Bearing in mind, Resolution CM/Res.496 (XXVII) establishing the OAU Ad-Hoc Committee of Seven on the Comorian Island of Mayotte,

Aware of the fact that only dialogue and consultation in an atmosphere of mutual trust can lead to a just and definitive settlement of the question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte:

1. REAFFIRMS that the referendum on self-determination of 22 December 1974 remains the only valid consultation applicable to the entire Archipelago;

2. REAFFIRMS ALSO the sovereignty of the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros over the Comorian Island of Mayotte;

3. FURTHER REAFFIRMS ITS SOLIDARITY with the Comorian people in their determination to recover their territorial integrity;

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4. TAKES NOTE of the new measures taken by the Comorian Government to improve relations with France and to find ways and means of reaching a just and definitive solution to the conflict;

5. CALLS ON Member States to support individually and collectively, the approach accepted by the Comorian authorities, based on mutual understanding and their will to preserve the long standing relations between the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros and the Republic of France;

6. MANDATES the OAU Ad-Hoc Committee of Seven on the Comorian Island of Mayotte and the OAU Secretary-General to remain in contact with the Comorian Authorities in order to monitor the developments in the situation and submit a report thereon to the Thirty-Third Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government;

7. REITERATES ITS DECISION to place on the agenda of all Sessions of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU the question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte until the Island is returned to the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros.

AHG/Res.256 (XXXII)

RESOLUTION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION CM/Res. 1610 (LXII) - ON OAU ASSISTANCE TO PATU

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Thirty-Second Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 8 to 10 July, 1996,

Having heard the statement by the delegation of Mali on the financial situation of the Pan-African Telecommunication Union (PATU),

Recalling resolution CM/Res.1610 (LXII)-95 on the financial situation of PATU,

Noting that despite the OAU resolution referred to above, the financial situation of the Union remains precarious owing to non-payment of contributions,

Deeply concerned by this situation which is highly detrimental to the smooth-running of the Union and its activities within the context of the programme of integration of telecommunications land networks by satellite and submarine networks in Africa,

Convinced that the high level of arrears of contribution owed by Member States seriously jeopardizes the implementation of the programme of activities of the Union and the on-going restructuring exercise aimed at better adapting the Union to the rapid developments in the global telecommunications environment,

Appreciative of the assistance provided by ITU, INTELSAT and INMARSAT, as well as the pledges made by international banking institutions such as SFI, ADB and BOAD to contribute to the development of African telecommunications, especially the development of cooperation between PATU and the AT&T Company of the United States in the realization of the optic fibre submarine cable network code-named "Africa One" where PATU plays a leading role within the project coordinating Committee,

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Considering that this project which pertains to the laying of a 37,000 km cable linking the whole of Africa, will render PATU self-financial, thereby enabling it to acquire a semi-commercial status,

Desirous of making it possible for PATU to meet Africa's aspirations to become self-sufficient in the area of telecommunications:

1. COMMENDS Member States that have paid their contributions to the regular budget of PATU;

2. URGES Member States which have not yet done so, to pay their arrears of contributions to PATU, the only OAU Specialized Agency in the area of telecommunications;

3. RECOMMENDS that PATU's Member States lend their support to restructuring programme of the Union;

4. INVITES the Advisory Committee to consider possible ways and means of providing assistance to PATU;

5. ALSO INVITES the Secretary-General of OAU to initiate consultations with the sub-regional telecommunications organization in Africa with a view to convening at the OAU Headquarters, a meeting for the coordination of telecommunications activities on the continent;

6. FURTHER INVITES the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of this resolution to the 65th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers.

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AHG/Res.257 (XXXII)

RESOLUTION ON BURUNDI

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Thirty-Second Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 8 - 10 July 1996,

Considering the deteriorating political and security situation in Burundi,

Noting the consistent efforts by our Continental Organization and the International Community to contribute to efforts aimed at restoring peace, security and national reconciliation in Burundi,

1. EXPRESSES GRAVE CONCERN at the situation of generalized insecurity that continues to prevail in Burundi in defiance of all the efforts to bring about a peaceful resolution of the conflict in that country;

2. AFFIRMS that OAU's concerns and efforts in Burundi, as well as those of the countries of the region, can in no way be considered as an interference in the internal affairs of that country, but flows from a fraternal and genuine concern to prevent yet another African tragedy of epic proportions and similar to those witnessed in Rwanda in 1994;

3. REAFFIRMS support for the Mwanza Peace Talks under the facilitation of the former President of Tanzania, Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere and encourages him to continue with his efforts based on and incorporating the principles sustainable democracy and security for all the people of Burundi and an all-inclusive negotiation process;

4. DECLARES full support for the outcome of the Arusha Summit of 25 June, 1996, especially the acceptance of the request by the Government of Burundi for Security Assistance in order to

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complement and reinforce the Mwanza Peace Talks as well as creating conducive security conditions for all the parties to freely participate in the Mwanza process;

5. APPEALS to the International Community especially the United Nations Security Council to provide all the necessary financial, logistical and other material assistance to the countries which will be involved in providing the requested Security Assistance;

6. REQUESTS the Secretary-General and the Central Organ to continue to follow very closely the implementation of this Resolution and to take action as appropriate.

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ANNEX III

Declarations and decision adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-second ordinary session

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AHG/Decl.1 (XXXII)

YAOUNDE DECLARATION ON POLIO ERADICATION IN AFRICA

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity meeting in our Thirty-Second Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 8 to 10 July 1996,

Bearing in mind Declaration AHG/Decl.1 (XXIII) on Health, Basis of Development" adopted by our Twenty-Third Session in Addis Ababa,

Recalling the major Resolutions adopted and/or endorsed by our Assembly, particularly, Resolutions :

AHG/Res. 63 (XXIII) on Universal Immunization in Africa;

CM/Res. 1230 (L) on the strategies of the Decade of the African Child (1990 - 2,000),

CM/Res. 1290 (LII) and CM/Res. 1360 (LIV) on the implementation of the Decade for the Survival, Protection and Development of the African Child,

Reaffirming the Plan of Action for the implementation of the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s adopted by the World Summit for Children held in New York in September 1990,

Recognizing the seriousness of the Poliomyelitis situation as evidenced by the large number of Children affected by the virus in Africa and also by the fact that this disease continues to seriously undermine health and development efforts deployed towards the implementation of programmes and projects aimed at the survival, protection and development of the African child; a guarantee for the future of the Continent,

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Acknowledging the invaluable technical and financial contribution provided to Member States of our Organization by all its partners especially Rotary International, WHO, UNICEF, USAID, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (USA), IGOs and NGOs from the USA, EU member countries, Nordic countries and, Japan, in their efforts to eradicate poliomyelitis;

Mindful of the current growing global movement for the eradication of poliomyelitis by the year 2,000 as adopted in 1988 by the Forty-Fifth Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly:

1. COMMIT OURSELVES to :

- eradicate poliomyelitis in Africa as an urgent priority and confirm our strong determination to make Africa free of poliomyelitis;

- fully support the implementation of the strategies recommended by the World Health Organization including national immunization days;

- allocate adequate human, financial and material resources, and mobilize other local resources including resources from non-governmental and the private sector, for the eradication of poliomyelitis in Africa;

- mobilize additional external resources from international agencies, governmental and non-governmental organizations and other partners including private foundations, in support of poliomyelitis eradication activities in Africa;

2. CALLS UPON all Member States to take immediate and concrete steps to:

(i) urgently address the problem of poliomyelitis;

(ii) give their full political support to actions aimed at preventing and eradicating poliomyelitis as a matter of top priority, and mobilize all national, local, traditional and religious leaders for the fight against poliomyelitis through vaccination and the provision of adequate local and external resources;

(iii) develop mechanisms that will facilitate and ensure inter-sectorial and inter-country collaboration and coordination, as well as integration with other relevant health-related programmes for the long-term control of poliomyelitis;

(iv) request the high-level Committee set up by the WHO Regional Directors for Africa, and Eastern Mediterranean region to speed up the eradication of poliomyelitis in Africa;

3. MANDATE the Ministries of Health of OAU Member States in collaboration with other relevant sectors of Government to ensure that effective polio eradication strategies and activities recommended by the World Health Organization are included in the strategic Plans of Action of their national immunization programmes and appropriately implemented;

4. WELCOME:

the establishment by the WHO Regional Directors for Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean Region of a high-level Committee for the eradication of poliomyelitis in Africa;

the tremendous efforts deployed by WHO, Rotary International, UNICEF, USAID, Centres for Disease Control (USA), other international agencies, governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as other partners, to provide OAU Member States with the necessary technical, logistical and financial support for the eradication of poliomyelitis in Africa;

5. REQUEST WHO, UNICEF, Rotary International, USAID and other relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations to step up their financial assistance and strengthen their input in favour of OAU Member States in order to mitigate the overwhelming health, social and economic consequences of poliomyelitis;

6. INVITE Government and other partners including multilateral and bilateral agencies to participate in the efforts deployed to eradicate poliomyelitis in Africa by the year 2,000;

7. MANDATE the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to submit a progress report every year on the implementation of the present Declaration and ensure the implementation and evaluation of the Appeal for Action in collaboration with WHO, UNICEF, and other relevant Agencies.

AHG/Decl.2 (XXXII)

DECLARATION AND PLAN OF ACTION ON DRUG CONTROL ABUSE AND ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING IN AFRICA

The features of the Plan of Action elaborated herewith comprise five sections - Section I, Declaration; Section II; Main Orientations; Section III, the Role of Regional Economic Communities; Section IV, The Organization of African Unity; Section V, Sources of Finance; and Section VI; Final Considerations.

SECTION I: DECLARATION

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity,

Aware that a variety of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances are in illicit traffic in the continent of Africa and that large quantities of psychotropic substances are diverted into the countries of Africa;

Aware that drug abuse and illicit trafficking have become worldwide phenomena;

Aware that Africa is targeted by drug traffickers who are taking advantage of the socio-economic and political difficulties besetting our different countries and who are converting the continent into an extension of their worldwide network and are in the process developing markets for drug consumption wherever possible, on the continent;

Aware that drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking have increased significantly in the countries of African and that these problems require to be urgently addressed to prevent their further spread;

Aware that the drug abuse problem is multifaceted and requires a multidisciplinary approach for its resolution,

Aware of the pervasiveness of drug abuse in many African countries and that abuse and misuse of drugs cut across social strata and that youth and school children are the most vulnerable members of our societies,

Aware that international cooperation and mutual assistance are veritable instruments in the fight against drug abuse and trafficking,

Aware that the international drug treaties are important instruments for effective drug control, that States should accede to these treaties as part of their commitment to effective international drug control efforts and that many States in Africa are yet to become parties to these international drug treaties,

Aware that sufficiently trained and motivated personnel are a pre-requisite for introduction of effective drug control measures,

Aware that drug abuse and illicit trafficking constitute a major obstacle to the development of our societies to the fullest extent possible and that, furthermore, drug abuse and illicit trafficking affect the people of Africa by alienating human dignity and suppressing freedom of choice,

Recognizing that it is important for States that are parties to the international drug treaties to harmonize their drug laws with the international drug treaties and that States that are not parties to the international drug treaties are also required to harmonize their national drug laws with the international drug treaties in the interest of international drug control,

Recognizing that national drug laws are important instruments in the fight against illicit trafficking,

Recognizing that illicit drug trafficking is a crime against national and international drug laws and that there is a link between illicit drug trafficking and organized crime,

Recognizing that illicit drug traffic undermines civil authorities and governments and poses a threat to political stability,

Recognizing that preventive action against non-medical use, misuse and abuse of drugs is cost effective,

Concerned about the socio-economic consequences of drug abuse because of their particular burden on national development, productivity and social services as drug abuse affects the society, family and individual,

Concerned that the proceeds from illicit drug trafficking when allowed to flow into the national financial institutions can lead to a rapid increase in the money supply and thus put inflationary pressure on the economies of States,

Convinced that to address the suppression of drug abuse and illicit trafficking in the continent requires a joint and concerted effort by all Member States so as to avoid any weak links in our collective endeavour to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking,

Convinced that the successful control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances on the continent calls for a coordinated, comprehensive and integrated approach as well as the commitment of governments at the highest level possible,

Acknowledging our indebtedness to the efforts of Member States thus far in combating the drug problem and convinced that a more systematic and collective effort is required in this regard,

We hereby agree to focus on the following:

(i) Ensuring coherence of our action in drug control at national, regional and continental levels;

(ii) Fostering cooperation among countries sharing the same problems, preferably in the same region;

(iii) Setting up appropriate institutions to address illicit drug trafficking and illicit drug demand in a balanced, integrated and timely manner;

(iv) Assessing the drug problem in its two aspects of supply and demand of illicit drugs as well as ensuring the capacity of countries to address the problem;

(v) Integrating drug demand reduction programmes into the national health and social policy and providing, where not available, infrastructures for treatment of drug addicts and their social integration;

(vi) Adopting the international drug conventions and legal instruments to deal with the problem;

(vii) Developing human resources;

(viii) Evaluating periodically the programmes that are being implemented; and

(xi) Mobilizing resources at national, regional, continental and international levels for carrying out the actions identified.

We also agree on the necessity to act on the basis of Plan of Action built around these key elements and which is aimed at the establishment of a framework for eradicating drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

To identify in concrete terms priority actions that Governments can take to eradicate drug abuse and illicit trafficking,

To develop cooperation among African countries on those priority actions so that a concerted and comprehensive approach to drug control can be adopted,

To mobilize the community and non-governmental organizations in eradicating drug abuse and illicit trafficking in Africa,

To provide a framework for a coordinated, comprehensive and concerted international approach to eradicating drug abuse and illicit trafficking in Africa, and

To raise the commitment of Governments to addressing the drug problem.

SECTION II. MAIN ORIENTATIONS

We shall take steps to carry out drug control activities having in mind the main orientations elaborated below.

(a) Political Will and Commitment

We shall translate our political will and commitment by the active integration of drug control into national policies by allocating adequate resources for drug control activities;

This will entail the development, adoption and review of the adequacy of the administrative and regulatory mechanisms introduced for the prevention of drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

(b) Assessment of the Drug Problem

Mechanisms for the collection and analysis of the drug problem are introduced to improve formulation of policies. In addition, remedial measures are introduced to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking and to report adequately to the international organizations;

This will be achieved by collection and collation of data on drug seizures, drugs being abused, the extent of abuse, the trends in drug abuse and illicit trafficking and the profiles of illicit drug traffickers. The data obtained will be used in periodically reviewing measures that are introduced.

(c) Institution Building

National administrations or focal points for drug control are established or strengthened and given adequate resources and authority for control of drugs in an integrated and comprehensive manner

This will be achieved by establishing or strengthening national administrations for drug control and, where not possible, establish or strengthen inter-ministerial committees for coordinating and monitoring drug control activities. The national administrations, where and when established, are required to be adequately staffed with knowledgeable, competent and committed personnel. Where more than one agency or department exists for drug control activities, they will be encouraged to promote and foster inter/agency/inter/departmental cooperation in the control of drugs nationally. National administrations for drug control will be adequately equipped.

(d) Human Resources Development

National administrations for drug control will be staffed by competent, committed and motivated staff. The national administrations will also have a reservoir of manpower for drug control activities.

This will be achieved by providing training for drug law enforcement officers to detect and interdict drugs in illicit traffic using up-to-date techniques, where possible. In addition, personnel for drug demand reduction programmes will be trained in all aspects of drug demand reduction, while recognizing the need for specialization. Also, the judiciary will be offered training on the laws specific to control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

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Furthermore, regular in-service training will be provided to personnel for updating of skills, knowledge and exchange of experience. It is desirable that personnel of national drug administrations are regularly screened for commitment to the goals of the drug administrations.

(e) Suppression of Illicit Drug Traffic

Suppression of illicit drug trafficking is achieved through the adoption and enforcement of adequate national legal systems, providing adequate security throughout the country and establishment of adequately equipped forensic laboratory for identification of substances seized in illicit traffic.

Drug laws are enacted that are consistent with the international drug treaties, adequate number of personnel in drug law enforcement are employed, full time security coverage of ports, land borders and post offices are provided and the drug laws are enforced through arrests, prosecution of suspects and imposition of appropriate penal sanctions. The enhancement of the skills of drug law enforcement officers and the provision of adequate facilities to detect and interdict narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in illicit traffic are considered a priority. In addition, the capacity of the judiciary to deal effectively with cases of illicit drug trafficking will be improved.

(f) Reducing Illicit Demand for Drugs

Promotion of rational medicinal use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; adoption of measures for preventing drug abuse and misuse and the provision of treatment and social reintegration to drug addicts are given priority consideration.

This will mean the promotion of regulated drug distribution channels by introducing appropriate legislation and enforcing the laws. In addition, preventive education will be promoted through appropriately educating the public by mass education campaigns and the introduction of preventive education into the school curricula. Facilities for early detection of drug addicts, treatment and social reintegration of drug addicts are established.

(g) International Cooperation

Foster improved cooperation among States and between States and relevant international and inter-governmental organizations.

Bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements are entered into with one another and with inter-governmental and international organizations as well as regional economic communities. Also, through cooperation agreements entered into technical assistance in respect of control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances can be sought.

(h) Community Mobilization

Mobilization of communities and non-governmental organizations in drug demand reduction programmes are achieved.

National non-governmental organizations are encouraged to become involved in drug demand reduction programmes and their capacities strengthened to complement Government programmes.

SECTION III: THE ROLE OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES

The main orientations of the Plan of Action will be translated into concrete actions. In this regard, Member States require the support and cooperation of the regional economic communities (ECCAS, ECOWAS, SADC, etc...) To achieve the desired goal of reducing the dangers posed by drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

Regional economic communities will be expected to enlarge the mandate of their organizations to include consideration of drug control measures in the region as well as establish institutional framework for consideration of such measures. The initiatives taken in this regard by, inter alia, ECCAS and SADC are encouraging examples. Regional economic communities will promote accession by Member States in the regions, to the international drug treaties as well as provide adequate funding for drug control activities at their Secretariats.

Regional economic communities will be required to establish focal points for drug control activities at the regional Secretariat and provide such focal points with adequate resources to be effective. The focal points will endeavour to promote cooperation among States in the region in measures for effective control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Regional economic communities will offer training to their staff responsible for drug control activities at their Secretariats so that they can communicate well with national drug control administrations in Member States. The Secretariat should consider collating information on institutions that provide training in the relevant fields of drug control and liaise with such institutions for the purpose of offering training to their own officials and officials of Member States.

Regional economic communities are to encourage Member States to harmonize their drug laws, to the extent possible, for effective cooperation in drug control activities. They should, also, encourage joint border inspection checkpoints in neighbouring Member States as a way of suppressing transborder illicit drug traffic. In addition, they should promote the establishment of regional forensic laboratories, where forensic laboratories do not exist. Where, however, forensic laboratories exist in some States and not in others, the use of forensic laboratories in neighbouring countries should be encouraged.

Regional consultations on drug demand reduction programmes including treatment and social reintegration should be promoted by the secretariat of the regional economic communities as a way of improving knowledge and skills of personnel involved in drug demand reduction activities in Member States. Such consultations should take place at seminars/workshops organized by the regional economic communities and with the possible financial assistance of Governments and international organizations, the communities are cooperating with.

Regional economic communities should consider entering into cooperation agreements, protocols, etc... with other regional groupings, governments; and international and inter-governmental organizations. The Secretariats of the regional economic communities should foster cooperation among Member States in the region in support of control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Regional economic communities are required to submit annual reports on activities in support of drug control in their regions to the Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

SECTION IV - ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

The main orientations of the Plan of Action require to be translated into concrete actions. In this regard, Member States will need the support and cooperation of the OAU to achieve the desired goal, which is the reduction of vulnerability to the drug threat.

The OAU should take necessary steps to formally enlarge its mandate to include consideration of drug control activities in view of Article 72 (2)(9) of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community, 1991, which states that the Community shall undertake to "harmonize their efforts to put an end to the illegal production, trafficking and use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and formulate sensitization and rehabilitation programmes in this field". A focal point shall be established at the Secretariat for the coordination and monitoring of drug control activities at the continental level and promotion of accession to the international drug treaties by Member States.

This focal point should either function as an independent unit or as part of an existing unit such as the ESCAS Department. The focal point, which shall be staffed by competent personnel, should liaise with the Secretariats of other regional economic communities, in respect of drug control activities. The focal point will also have the responsibility of preparing and presenting annual reports of current drug situation on the Continent to the meetings of Foreign Affairs' Ministers and Heads of State and Government of the OAU. In addition, the focal point will be expected to review and make recommendations on the updating of plan of action for drug control.

The OAU Secretariat will be required to maintain an inventory of African experts in the field of drug control, collate information on institutions that provide relevant training in drug control and disseminate such information to Member States. In addition, it should promote the exchange of experts in drug control between Member States and whenever required, organize seminars/workshops for updating skills of personnel of Member States in drug control activities.

The OAU Secretariat should consider initiating discussions with international and inter-governmental organizations with a view to facilitate the exchange of information required for interdiction of drugs in illicit traffic on the Continent and for the arrest of suspected illicit drug traffickers.

The OAU will be expected to establish a forum for consultations by experts on drug demand reduction programmes as a way of improving knowledge and skills. The cooperation of international organizations such as the UNDCP, UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO and the ILO may be required in this respect.

The OAU will consider using its facilities to promote international cooperation in the field of drug control. This can be achieved by the initiation and participation of the OAU at interregional and international meetings on drug control. The OAU can also promote cooperation for mutual assistance with other Member States, regional groupings outside Africa, and international and inter-governmental organizations. In addition, the OAU will be expected to cooperate and collaborate with the UNDCP, UNECA, UNAFRI and other UN Agencies. With respect to the UNDCP, the Organization of African Unity has signed a Memorandum of Understanding which laid down the grounds for collaboration and cooperation.

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SECTION V: SOURCES OF FINANCING

Governments will make adequate budgetary allocation for controlling narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances to reflect the priority they place in devising programmes in support of the Plan of Action.

Governments, regional economic communities and the OAU should examine existing external sources of funding.

Governments should produce a suitable framework for drug control, in line with this Plan of Action to enable them to seek assistance from these external sources. Based on the frameowrk, the regional economic communities and the OAU can play the catalytic role in this regard.

SECTION VI: FINAL CONSIDERATION

The present Plan of Action covers the period 1997 -2001. The Secretariat of OAU is given the responsibility of monitoring its implementation and to report to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government. As provided for in paragraph 31, the report should, if necessary, contain proposals to update the Plan of Action based on the experience gained from its implementation.

By endorsing this Declaration and Plan of Action, a milestone has been reached in effectively addressing the drug problem in Africa.

AHG/Decl.3 (XXXII)

YAOUNDE DECLARATION

(AFRICA: PREPARING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY)

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in the Thirty Second Ordinary Session of our Summit in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 8 to 10 July, 1996 at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Cameroon have, in the light of the general situation prevailing in Africa at the close of this century, continued to reflect on ways and means of smoothly ushering Africa into the 21st century.

2. We have noted, at the close of the 20th century, that of all the regions of the world, Africa is indeed the most backward in terms of development from whatever angle it is viewed and the most vulnerable as far as peace, security and stability are concerned

3. We are resolved, at this dawn of the 21st Century, to create, by the most appropriate means, conditions to enable Africa to take up the challenges facing it, which, if unresolved, could jeopardize the future of the continent for a long time to come.

THE WORLD AND THE STATE OF AFRICA AT THE DAWN OF THE 21ST CENTURY

4. Casting a retrospective glance into the past, we have noted that the world, which is about to enter the Third millenium, has throughout the century that is drawing to a close, overcome major hurdles and experienced remarkable changes.

Today, the world is undergoing a far-reaching transformation:

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since 1990, the international political system that prevailed during the second half of the century, has undergone fundamental changes;

the world economy is dominated,as never before in the history of humanity, by a triad made up of Western Europe, North America and Japan. These regions possess both the greatest financial affluence and the main industrial conglomerates as well as the bulk technological innovations;

- the growth of new communication technologies has accelerated the globalization process as far as large transnationals are concerned;

- from specific development issues considered by the world conferences convened in the last five years, a series of formidable problems arising partly from these changes have emerged: the unacceptable dichotomy of extreme prosperity and abject poverty at the global level, the present alarming population explosion and its negative impact particularly on urbanization; the destruction of the ecosystems by the unrestrained utilization of national resources in developed countries and the prevalence of similar trend in developing countries;

5. During this century Africa has faced a wide variety of difficulties, but has on the whole made significant strides:

thanks to the successes in of science and medicine, among others, over major endemic diseases and infertility, the continents population has increased so rapidly that its growth rate is now the highest in the world;

- the significant achievements in education and training have reduced the rate of illiteracy and created professional and executive classes;

- our countries have continued to acquire various kinds of infrastructure and have become aware of the need to exploit the tapping of their immense natural resources;

- since their accession to independence, our States have sought to promote the socio-economic development of the continent by creating numerous specialized inter-African institutions;

- the total political liberation of the continent has just been achieved. This has been followed today by a transitional period characterized by the end of the one-party rule, the onset of democratization, the emergence of the state of law and the restructuring of our economies.

6. Nevertheless, in the light of the general evolution of humanity during this century and especially when compared to the other developing continents, such as Latin America and Asia, Africa is lagging far behind and may even be the most under-developed continent of the world as we do admit in our 1994 Declaration on Population and Development in Africa:

Indeed, Africa has the lowest life expectancy, the highest infant mortality and illiteracy rates, the lowest GNP, in short, the lowest human development indicator. Furthermore, close to half of its population lives in poverty and misery, while unemployment and under-employment have become endemic, especially in urban areas. Food production can no longer meet the increasing needs of an ever-growing population.

Environmental degradation is worsening due essentially to deforestation, drought, desertification and urbanization which, according to recent UNFPA estimates, is the fastest in the world.

Additionally, the entire African economy is declining and increasingly losing its place in the global economy. Cooperation and regional economic integration are marking time, while official development assistance is decreasing and the external debt burden is becoming heavier. Also, capital flight is coupled with real brain-drain which, each year, strips Africa of tens of thousands of its sons and daughters, professors, scientists and other highly qualified human resources, which escape to the North as the continent progressively loses its cultural identity in the face of dominant foreign cultures.

Lastly, Africa, at present, holds the record of inter-state wars and conflicts which produce influx of refugees and displaced persons, and result in economic devastation, enormous loss in human life and a drain on its meagre resources.

7. As we already stated in our 1990 Declaration "on Africa's political and economic situation", Africa's plight is not, since independence, imputable to lack of ideas, anticipation, proposals, individual and collective efforts on the part of our countries, plans, strategies as well as decades devoted to Africa by

the international community. Rather it is largely attributable to the lack of an enabling environment, adequate development strategies and particularly to the failure of our countries to provide good governance and make proper macro-economic and sectoral options.

8. Against the background of the afore mentioned and other lessons drawn from modern history, and weakened by our inability to provide better living conditions for our peoples, we are convinced today that there is an urgent need to rescue the continent from decline and thus generate a new collective dynamism which can lead to a genuine, self-sustaining and self-reliant development.

9. In this context, Africa will basically have to meet not only the main challenges on which the international community pegs the survival of our planet and that of humanity, but also to solve other immediate and more specific problems, the prime responsibility for which lies first and foremost with our governments and peoples. The search for efficient means to meet these challenges and the implementation of the strategies formulated so far will depend largely on the place carved for Africa within the world of the 21st century.

RESCUING AFRICA FROM DECLINE

Stemming the Debt Crisis

10. Despite the various and numerous initiatives taken by the international community to alleviate the external debt burden of Africa (bilateral, multilateral and private), the level of indebtedness remains one of the main obstacles to the recovery of our economies.

11. We hope our efforts in embarking on macro-economic and political reforms geared towards achieving greater equilibriums and creating an enabling economic environment for both local and foreign direct investments would be supported by a substantial reduction in the debt and a major inflow of debt-free financial assistance.

12. We wish to reiterate that the practical and durable solution to the debt crisis must henceforth be found through a systematic re-appraisal and review of all measures intended for its servicing and through a concerted search for new, appropriate solutions commensurate with an equitable promotion of economic and social progress in all parts of the world.

REGIONAL COOPERATION AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

13. Regional cooperation and economic integration constitute one of the basic key measures for the socio-economic development of our countries. They are equally very essential not only for the self-fulfillment of the continent but also for securing an appropriate place in a world economy characterized, inter-alia, by a generalized wave of fundamental economic restructuring of economic entities spaces, oriented towards achieving a real continentalization of markets, and intensification and liberalization of trade and commerce.

14. Since regional cooperation and economic integration help to promote the growth of economy of scale, they constitute the best means for Africa to regain its lost external competitiveness, to strengthen its capacity of negotiation in world affairs, to effectively open up its economies, to rapidly launch its industrial growth and enter the world market through diversification of exports, comparative advantages other than commodities and ultimately mitigate its marginalization.

15. In this regard, we reaffirm the pertinence of the Lagos Plan of Action, the April 1980 Final Act of Lagos and the Abuja Treaty as an appropriate framework for implementing the African strategy of economic, social and cultural integration.

16. We hail and support the measures taken by our Organization, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Development Bank to harmonize and coordinate their activities in order to foster integration.

17. Finally, we recognize the urgency for developing an integrated transport and communications infrastructure to speed up the continent's physical integration.

The State and Development

18. While we acknowledge the benefits of market laws and mechanisms, as well as private initiative in the current context of profound economic changes in the continent, and in reference to the successful experiments in some South-East Asian countries, we uphold that the selective, guideline and encouragement measures by public authorities can, without necessarily departing from liberalism, be very instrumental to the development process. Any future development strategy should allow for a serious study of this issue.

Promotion of Sustainable Development

19. Sustainable development aims primarily at ensuring a better standard of living for present and future generations; it is founded on democracy, human rights, good governance, human resource promotion, economic and social development, environmental protection, all with the human being, as the focal point.

20. Convinced that the human person should consequently, and at all levels, be the object of our preoccupations and initiatives in matters of sustainable development:

We reaffirm the relevance and currency of the analysis of the human and social situation on the African continent which we made at our 30th Summit in Tunis in June 1994 and was reflected in the "African Common Position on Human and Social Development in Africa;

- We also reaffirm the relevance of our analysis of the agricultural situation on the African Continent as reflected in the "African Common Position on Food Security and Agricultural Development";

- We renew our African and international commitments on issues of social development as expressed respectively in our "Declaration on Social Development" appended to the "African Common Position on Human and Social Development in Africa" and in the "Declaration on Social Development" adopted in March 1995 at the Copenhagen Summit on Social Development;

- We call on our partners in the international community to honour the commitments which they made at the World Summit on Social Development, particularly by mobilizing substantial financial support needed for promoting development and improving the quality of life in the world at large and in Africa in particular.

Management and Conservation of the Environment

21. Environmental safety on our planet is the biggest challenge of the Third Millennium. Africa is playing an active role towards attaining this goal, as rational management has become a major component of development policies in Member States.

22. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development recognized the convergence between the need for environmental protection and equity in international economic relations. However, while solidarity between countries of the North and Member States is rather tepid as reflected by the sharp deadline in official Development Assistance as well as multilateral assistance to the financing of sustainable development, world economic imbalances continue to worsen. Hence, the need to honour the commitments made under the Rio Agreement and restore balance in international economic relations.

23. Concurrently, beyond the initiatives already undertaken by Member States, we must:

- pay special attention to the protection and sustainable management of biodiversity in Member States by adopting appropriate measures regulating access to and utilization and marketing of our biological resources;

- examine all aspects of the possibility of obtaining patents for our genetic resources by including therein the protection of traditional expertise;

- formulate appropriate national legislation in order to protect our countries from the risk of biotechnological disasters, and lastly;

encourage regional cooperation in all areas pertaining to the environment as recommended in the Africa's Common Position on Environment and "Development adopted in November 1991 at the Second African Regional Ministerial Conference" held in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

Peace and Security

24. Peace and development are indivisible. Indeed, none is possible without the other.

25. We must release Africa's negative image as a hotbed of clashes and conflicts, and restore the lost dignity of our peoples by stirring to spare them the untold suffering brought about by conflicts. This is so because future generations and history will judge us very severely if, individually and collectively, we were to shy away all the time from our responsibilities in the face of escalating armed conflicts in Africa and at the same time lack the political will to respect ceasefire and peace agreements.

In this respect:

- We Welcome the creation in June 1993 of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution which is already contributing significantly towards improving the Organization's capacity to prevent conflicts and maintain peace in Africa;

- We hail in advance the imminent institution within the said Mechanism of our early warning system (EWS) on conflictual situations in Africa, convinced that its establishment should be able to further improve the action of the Organization in the area of preventive diplomacy by making it possible.

/...

notably through pre-emptive action in gathering and analyzing pertinent data, not only to establish the existence of a threat to the peace, but also to look for a quick way to remove the threat. We exhort all potential data collectors to communicate same information in time and provide the OAU Mechanism regularly with any at their disposal on warning signs of imminent conflict.

- Considering the urgent need to institutionalize the Mechanism as one of Permanent Organs of our Organization, we request the Secretary-General to propose to an appropriate Council Session in the nearest future the modalities of that incorporation;

- We equally commit Member States to urgently examine all concrete, pragmatic and feasible recommendations of the Secretary-General aimed at further strengthening the present operational capacity of the Mechanism; making its decisions more binding; providing it with adequate financial capacity; improving cooperation and coordination between the Mechanism and the UNO on the one hand, and African Sub-Regional Organizations on the other; codifying and subsequently using traditional African methods of conflict resolution; associating, where possible, the civilian society and its offshoots with the conflict resolution process, notably by systematic recourse to eminent African personalities.

26. As advanced under disarmament, we welcome with satisfaction the recent signing by African States of the "Pelindaba" Treaty Establishing an African Nuclear Free Zone. Similarly, we are committed to ratify it as we have quickly realized that its subsequent implementation will certainly be an important milestone in the disarmament and denuclearization process of Africa.

We also express satisfaction with the fact that major nuclear powers are signatories to this agreement.

27. The progress accomplished in the denuclearization of Africa should also be pursued more than ever before in the limitation and reduction of conventional arms according to the specific nature of our region. This is a prior condition and an important objective for a lasting solution to peace, security and stability. Consequently, we are determined to conduct an in-depth study of the question of reducing the armament burden in all its aspects, including the

proliferation and dissemination (illicit and clandestine traffic of arms) of low-calibre war arms in the conflict zones and its vicinity. Our reflexion should also focus on the possibility of using a certain percentage of the deviants from this disarmament to increase the financial capacity of the Mechanism.

28. In order to initiate a regional dynamism to enhance mutual confidence and security through greater transparency in the international transfer of conventional arms, we have decided to set up within our Organization a Regional Register on the transfer of Conventional Arms.

Promotion of African Culture and Cultural Industries

29. Culture is one of the qualitative components of development and is complementary to such other quantitative components as those pertaining to the economic domain. It is therefore a truism to say that the kind of development we want for the 21st Century will also depend on the dynamism of our continent's culture. Consequently, the continent's place in the concert of nations of tomorrow and beyond and the pull it will have on the other regions will depend on its cultural development; for there is no doubt that the continent's culture will go a long way to enable other peoples to better understand the African identity in all its dimensions and thereby change the negative image commonly portrayed of the continent.

30. The creativity of our peoples, the liveliness and richness of African cultural heritage and values should contribute to this development, especially by discarding the small-scale production methods currently in use and evolving towards the large scale production of the continent's cultural artifacts, improving their circulation and controlling their exploitation networks.

31. But the advent of the age of technological explosion, rapid computerization and the breath-taking advancement in communication industries bolstering the trend towards cultural hegemony have confronted Africa with the fundamental problem of aligning its culture with technological know-how.

32. We are convinced that the preservation of African traditional values is perfectly computable with the assimilation of advanced scientific and technological Know-how. However, the perpetuation of these values is today threatened by the on-going process of cultural standardization. We must therefore adopt appropriate strategies to safeguard Africa's traditional values.

The OAU very quickly gave this issue serious thought. For decades, it made and is still making tremendous efforts to foster the continent's cultural development dynamics. The Organization's most significant initiatives in this area include the Cultural Charter of Africa and the Plan of Action of Cultural Industries adopted respectively at our Summits in Port-Louis, Mauritius in 1976 and Dakar, Senegal in 1992.

33. While reaffirming its relevance, we reiterate our support for the Dakar Plan of Action on Cultural Industries. At the same time, we request the Secretary-General to explore the possibility of setting up a plan-African Institute

of Culture and Arts, with the double purpose of training experts for the management of cultural industries at all levels and serving as the centre of support for African Cultural Artistic Creation.

34. It is in only this way that Africa can survive culturally and continue to contribute to the culture and world civilization.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND BRAIN DRAIN

35. We must formulate strategies to limit brain drain which greatly compromises, in the medium and long term, the continent's chances of achieving sustainable development and to encourage the return of the said human resources to Africa.

36. We mandate the Secretary-General to prepare, as soon as possible, an appropriate comprehensive report to enable us take relevant , well-informed decisions in this regard.

37. Owing to increasing world interdependence at the turn of this century, the world is bound to have one and the same future, and Africa and the other continents are compelled to share a common destiny.

38. The gravity of the Economic crisis that Africa is now experiencing is an indisputable fact that gives no room for optimism. a large fraction of the international community is therefore justified in concluding that Africa is an afflicted continent. We however think that a positive and durable solution will be found to this transient situation at the beginning of the next century thanks to strict compliance with our commitment s during our most recent Summit, and more particularly those of this Summit which is holding in Yaounde.

39. Africa is indeed decided to meet the challenge of its own decline. This is Africa's greatest resolve today for the next century, after a resounding success in its total political liberation in half a century. It has abundant potentials for achieving this objective.

AHG/Decl. 4 (XXXII)

DECLARATION OF THE YAOUNDE SUMMIT ON AFRICAN CANDIDATURE FOR A SECOND TERM AS SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UN

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Thirty-Second Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 8 to 10 July, 1996,

Recalling Resolution AHG Res 243 (XXXI) 1995 by which the Assembly of Heads of State and Government expressed its appreciation to Boutros Boutros Ghali for his initiatives at the helm of the United Nations Organization,

1. **REAFFIRMS** the historic importance of the election of an African as Secretary-General of the United Nations, thus enabling Africa to significantly contribute to the attainment of the principles enshrined in the UN Charter and promote multilateralism;

2. **WISHES** to underscore Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali's action at the head of the UN General Secretariat since his election in 1991;

3. **RECALLS** the tradition and the practice at the UN, which consists in re-electing the incumbent Secretary-General for a second term;

4 In this regard, **RECOMMENDS** that the necessary steps be taken by the Current Chairman with all the partners, members of the UN, to give Africa a second mandate, for the next five years, and **RECOMMENDS** the candidature of Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali for a second term as Secretary-General of the UN.

AHG/Decision 119 (XXXII)

DECISION ON THE CONVENING OF THE FIRST MINISTERIAL SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting at its 32nd Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon from 8 to 10 July 1996,

Having considered Document CM/1953 (LXIV) containing the Report of the Experts relating to the First Session of the Economic and Social Commission (ECOSOC),

Considering the entry into force, as of 12 May 1994, of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community,

Aware of the urgency of implementing the provisions of the Treaty, in particular its Article 6;

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report on the first Expert's session of ECOSOC.

2. DECIDES that the Ministerial Session of ECOSOC should take place before the end of November 1996 in order to consider the draft recommendations of the meeting of Experts.

3. URGES all Member States to be represented at the Ministerial Session of ECOSOC by Ministers responsible for Economic Development and Planning or regional integration, as specified in Article 15 of the AEC Treaty;

4. URGES FURTHER all Member States to give priority attention to the Draft Protocol on Relations between the African Economic Community and Regional Economic Communities so as to facilitate its consideration and approval by the Ministerial Meeting of ECOSOC